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War pensions cover-up

Ministers cut £50m of veterans' cash

"sweeteners" are being offered by ministers to try to buy off protests over a £50 million package of cuts in war pensions, disguised in the Budget as simplification of the rules to help disabled ex-servicemen and war widows.

Confidential documents seen by the Guardian show. the £1 million sweeteners, described as such by officials,

split the ex-service lobby" in its reaction to the cuts. Peter Lilley, the Social Se-

curity Secretary, has warned that the Government, "faces a storm" over the package. In a letter to William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, he has put on record that he opposed the most con-troversial cut, which will hit war veterans growing increasingly deaf.

This cut, due to be revealed today, will stop 10,000 people a year getting a higher dis-ability pension because their hearing is deteriorating after being damaged during mili-

grave: "You will recall that I said at the bilateral [spending negotiations] that all my ministers were against this move, and it is not something we would choose to do, but in the end it is not a matter over which there is any choice."

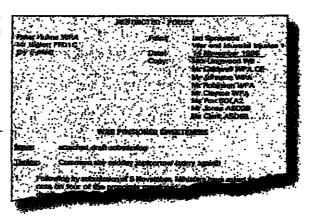
When the Government last made a cut in this area, in 1993, there was an outcry. That change, the first in the war pensions scheme since it started in 1947, stopped pen-sions to people with a hearing

stons to people with a hearing impairment assessed at less than 20 per cent.

The new cuts package was described in the Budget small print as "proposals to simplify policy and procedures", which "will make claims easier to process and eliminate inconsistent entitlement coninconsistent entitlement con-ditions". The Whitehall documents show it will, in fact, produce "around 500 gainers (all war widows) and about disablement



This figure excludes those to be hit by the additional curb on higher deafness pen-



Secret memo talks of sweeteners to buy off protests

eventual annual saving is put | people with a disability as-at £35 million of the total £50 | sessed at more than 40 per million envisaged.

cent; barring new claims from anybody over 65; phas-ing out the rent allowance for Cuts contained in the basic package, for implementation

seek an increase in entitlement

In his letter, Mr Lilley says presentation of the package will be "extremely difficult at this sensitive time". He urges Mr Waldegrave to agree four proposed sweeteners "if the Government is going to be in a position to defend itself".

Stressing the cheapness of the sweeteners, Mr Lilley says: 'I believe this to be well worthwhile given the storm that we face over the changes already agreed."

The four measures are:

□ Payment to all those receiving a clothing allowance, mainly amputees, of the higher rate of the allowance — £134 a year, rather than £85. Cost is put at £350,000 a year. The documents say this "targets the severely disabled and a group which attracts much public sympathy (amputees)". change is forecast to apply in just 55 cases a year and cost

£60,000. tials in gratuities paid for non-hearing disabilities of less than 20 per cent severity. This will apply in 10,000-15,000 new cases annually at a cost of up to £750,000 and the documents warn that "we may be accused of trying to

buy off critics".

Payment of a one-off grant of a minimum £100,000 towards a refurbishment ap-peal for the independently-run Chaseley home for dis-abled ex-service personnel.

The first three of these mea sures had been added to the basic cuts package before details of it were sent last week to the consultative central advisory committee on war pensions. It has until mid-Janu

A strong celebrity contingent is led by George Melly, Vic Reeves and Holly Johnson.

which raised £19,000 last year,

go to the college's fine art stu-dent fund.
"The idea is that you judge things visually," said RCA

spokesman Aubrey Green. "You're really left to your wits. You come away with

something you like."
Although it may free some

art lovers of the prejudices of

prior knowledge, others come turn to page 2, column 7

Howard ups Art spotting payouts to head off guns revolt

be stored legally.

The Government has said if

will pay compensation to

handgun owners at the mar

ket value of the individual

House of Commons. Home Office estimates of the final

bill are based on the assump-

tion that they will pay out an average of £100 to £150 for every gun surrendered. Most

Mr Howard had already

softened the original package by announcing that "heritage

weapons" such as antique pis-tols would not be covered by

In the Commons yesterday

low-powered compressed car-bon dioxide weapons would

be exempted from the new gun controls.

In the Commons debate last

He described the Govern-

ment's planned compensation package as "nothing short of legalised robbery" and added: "It's only right that there

should proper arrangements

for full compensation." Mr Colvin said the Govern-

ment's response to Dumblane had ignored the recommends-

tions of Lord Cullen's inquiry

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

SEV,

TE compensation bill for handgun owners will soar from £25 million to £150 million because of further concessions to be announced by the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, to head off embar-

assing Commons revolts.

The latest Home Office estimate is six times the original figure quoted as the price of buying up 160,000 higher cali-bre weapons when the gun control legislation was first published six weeks ago.

The extra concessions come after pressure from up to 30 | the ban. backbench Tory MPs over the Firearms Bill now going through the Commons. The han on higher calibre hand-guns is expected to come into

force in the new year.

The Home Secretary is poised to announce that he will extend the market value compensation scheme for in-dividual gun owners to fire-arm dealers so that they will not face financial loss as a result of the destruction of their stocks. The gun trade has claimed that as many as 3,000 jobs will go as a result of the firearms ban.

The compensation bill is also to be swelled by a further decision to buy in accessories held by shooters.

These items not only include shoulder holsters, ammunition and spare parts but also bullet making machinery and handloading equipment which can be worth thou-sands of pounds to individual gun owners.

About £12 million is expected to be paid out to the owners of the smaller 0.22 calibre pistols which will remain legal after the ban comes into

effect next menth. The owners of the 40,000 smaller calibre pistols will also be paid the market value for their weapons if they are prepared to forfelt them.

owners of smaller calibre guns will no longer live within reasonable travelling distance of a gun club which it claims would save some gun clubs, forced to introduce expensive security to allow upporter to it is expected that some security to allow weapons to | measures, from closure.



Kitaj or college student? Bowie or budding talent? For £30, the choice is yours

featuring farmyard animals, was bought for the obvious in-

fluence of the highly market-

able Britpack. The third, a landscape, was

bought as a nod to conven

tional fine art values, and the

fourth, a line drawing, was

bought at random, chosen by

its number.
Artists exhibiting in the

show, titled Absolut Secret,

include established figures such as Frank Auerbach, Pat-

rick Caulfield, Anthony Whi-shaw, R B Kitaj, Eduardo Pao-

lozzi, Claus Oldenburg and

Paula Rego. Young British artists are

Dan Glaister

T MIGHT be a masterpiece or it might be dross. It might be a waste of money or a shrewd investment in the art market. It might even be a Frank Auerbach original or the latest work by R B Kitaj. Equally, it could be by Vic Reeves or a student at the Royal College of Art.

For £30, art lovers have the opportunity to purchase un-signed works of art in an exhibition at the Royal College by a list of artists that reads like a who's who of contempo-

The artists were given a blank postcard on which to carry out their work for the exhibition. On the back of the postcard they filled in their name and indicated which way up it had to be displayed. All the works are the same size, they all cost £30, and all are signed on the back. The identities of the artists will be revealed on Sunday, once buying has closed.

The Guardian chose four of the 1,600 postcards on display. One, a nude, has cubist touches that suggest the hand of the contributing editor to Modern Painters magazine David Bowie.

lection . . . Quardian readers are invited to dabble in the art market and win this potential masterpiece. The anonymous, untitled nude, bought for £30, could be the work of David Bowie. Or it might be the **work of an unknown** young artist. The identity of the artist will be revealed in Monday's paper. To win the postcard, simply suggest a title. Answ on a postcard, of course, to Dan Glalster, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER by first post, Saturday De-

Another, featuring a sheep | represented by Turner Prize in a glass tank, one of several | nominee Simon Patterson.

Start your own art col-

The Guardian

To our readers,

Over recent weeks, we have been experiencing production problems which have seriously affected our distribution in some countries.

We have now installed new transmission equipment at both our overseas print sites - an investment which will ensure a regular and timely distribution of The Guardian International to our readers all over

Guardian Newspapers will continue to invest in the future - to make The Guardian International available in as many countries as possible, as early as possible.

We thank you for your continued

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The Guardian **Europe's Quality Newspaper**

Inside

The food poisoning epidemic de medits seventh victim. yesterdayes the first shots were fired in a battle for compensation.

World News The war crimes injurial accused the peace conference on Bosnia of ignoring efforts to bring to trial those accused of war atrocities.

Finance As NatWest unveiled plans to shed 10,000 jobs, the ombudsman criticised the banks for taking too little care when closing branches.

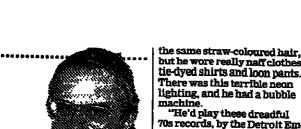
had one last chance to advance in Europe as they took on Rapid Vienda away is a Champlonis League make or break casti.

Radio and TV 16

Oblituaries 9

Sketch

The Fabb One: the early years



Simon Hoggart

arettes a day, and giving up was awful. But I was helped by the certainty that if I had even one puff I would have

worked my way through a whole packet of fags by dusk. Secondly, kind friends of-fered constant support. Now, 23 years later, smoking is no longer a temptation — except, of course, after meals.

None of this applies to Michael Fabricant. At the beginning of the new parliamentary session, I resolved not to mention him again. I had written enough. His feelings were hurt, he sent letters to say so. Also, he didn't seem a blg enough target: Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Financial Secretary to the Trea-sury is not the most glorious

position in government. But instead of supporting me in my attempts to cope with cold turkey, friends and acquaintances demanded more. Like so many people (Jeffrey Archer, Michael He-seltine), Fabricant has a real corporeal existence, but has also become a well-loved char-

acter in popular fiction.
I received desperate pleas
for more Fabricant news. Fabricant-intensive mail piled up on my desk. Colleagues flocked yesterday to tell me that he had a new wig (and I'm afraid it does look that way). So this is the equivalent of my packet of 20, my admission to myself that I have been unable to give up, and might as well give up try-ing to give up. The other day I got a call

from a man who works in radio, but used to be a disc jockey in Brighton during the early 1970s. He too was upset by the lack of Fabricant fun icts, largely because he used to know him.

'He had his own mobile disco, working the clubs and the student bars. He called himself Micky Fabb. He had

Review

but he wore really naff clothes tie-dyed shirts and loon pants. There was this terrible neon lighting, and he had a bubble "He'd play these dreadful 70s records, by the Detroit Em-

eralds and Steppenwolf, and he'd shout out to the dancers, things like 'Get on down!'.
'Shake that thing', and 'Strut yo' funky stuff!' "He was terrible, but I was

probably worse. I learned his real name when I bought some disco equipment from a shop in Brighton called Sound & Light. He asked me to make the cheque out to Michael

rapricant.

Naturally, I was suspicious
of this story. Could it be a
plant, designed to win money
in an expensive libel case (accusing someone of wearing loon pants and being called Micky Fabb could be worth twenty grand any day)?

I rang Sound & Light, which is citil radiant.

I rang Sound & Light, which is still trading, and asked the man who answered, "does the name of Michael Fabricant mean anything?"

"Yeees," said the voice, "he still comes in now and again."

"Was he a disc jockey in the Brighton area back in the early 70's, working under the nom de disque Micky Fabb?"

"Yup. That was when he had his own hair."

"What?" I yeiped, convinced that the greatest mystery in British polics was now

tery in British polics was now solved. "I think I've said quite enough," said my new friend, and he brought the conversa-tion hurriedly to a close. The next evidence came

second-hand, from a BBC make-up artiste who had plastered the slap on Mr Fabrican at TV Centre the other night. She reported: "He has this really orange face, as if he uses Instant Tan, but his ears are completely white. And his hair is like straw."

Sadly, she had not made a

grab at the hair, since this is discouraged by the Corpora-tion. But it set me thinking. Could it be that the Instant Tan is actually orange Snow-cem? And that the white ears are painted? Combined with the thatched roof, it implies that Mr Fabricant is not only senior legislator, an academi economist, a soulful disc jockey, but also a Grade II listed building. I see him as a delightful country cottage.

New power-sharing plan could buy off Moscow's opposition to expansion into eastern Europe

Nato offers Russia a veto



Yevgeny Primakov: Forum

fered joint chair manship of a new 17-member Nato to buy off its opposition to the alliance's expansion into eastern Europe. The proposal, to be dis-

cussed at next week's meeting of Nato foreign ministers in brussels, would give Russia the "political membership" it seeks. It would have a perma-nent voice — in effect a veto — in nearly all external mat-

ritorial defence, a cosy relationship that would have been unthinkable a few years ago. The dispatch of Nato peacekeeping forces to Bosnia, for instance, or their in the new council.

Those promoting the idea, including the Germans and some elements in the United States administration, have not yet devised a name for their creation. Many sensi-tive questions remain to be resolved, such as how it would relate to the 16-country North Atlantic Council, which already holds separate meetings with the Russians

serious about wanting a partnership, and that Russia has nothing to fear from parallel plans to invite several East European countries to be-come full members of the

More specifically, it seems to answer two sensitive points raised by the Russian foreign minister, Yevgeny Primakov, at a private meet-ing with Nato officials in Berlin earlier this year - that Russia deserves more than consultation about decisions already taken in "smokefilled rooms", and that it will vestern borders. Next week's Brussels meet-

ing is expected to answer the second complaint by declaring publicly that there is no requirement to deploy tactical nuclear weapons in eastern Europe "under foresee-able circumstances". This is not a problem for Nato, since Norway and Denmark al-ready forbid the peacetime stationing of foreign troops and nuclear weapons on their

Giving Russia what amounts to political member-ship of Nato, though excluding military matters covered by Article V of the North At-

of new nuclear bases near its lantic Treaty, which binds western borders. other's territory, would be more problematic. It might alarm candidates like Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, which are seeking to escape permanently from Moscow's sphere of influence; still more so the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, formerly part of the Soviet Union.

If the new forum does materialise, it will become a central feature of the charter Nato hopes to sign Russia up to next summer, as invita-tions to full membership are

Asprey, sponsor to royals, for added sparkle

Kamal Ahmed

mark the Queen's 50th wedding anniversary next summer will be sponsored by Asprey, giving the Jewellers unprecedented worldwide publicity and 90 minutes of live BBC televi-

Taking part in the the Royal Pageant of the Horse in Windsor Great Park will be more than 1,400 horses, 120 carriages and 600 musicians, including the Bach Choir conducted by Sir David Willcocks.

Asprey said their finan-cial contribution to the event, which is expected to cost £1.5 million,was "con-siderable". Tickets for the 25,000 spectators, who will sit in specially built stands, will cost between £40 and

"Events of this size are expensive to put on," said Major Michael Parker, the head of the organising com-mittee. "Those that can't afford to come will be able to see it live on television. "It is impossible to run a major event with no public money without a sponsor. We are a non-profit making organisation and any money that is left over at the end will be shared be-

Celia Weston Industrial Correspondent

vironment spokesman, said the companies had no need to

put up prices. Investment levels had fallen, while profits had topped £10 billion and dividends worth £3 billion

had been paid out. "This in-dustry has hardly been regu-

lated. Labour will make sure in future that regulation is in the interests of the customers



Asprey, which has been the royal jewellers since it received its first Royal Warrant in 1862 from Queen Victoria, said other private companies would be taking trade stands at

the event and would have

charities. It is going to be amazingly good fun." London to mark the Queen Mother's 90th birthday in 1990 was funded by charitable organisations, includtion, chaired by Sir David Gosling, chairman of NCP

car parks.
"Royal associations are useful for private compa-nies," said Frank Pro-We are a non-profit making organisation and any money that is left over at the end will be shared between horse and animal their names displayed.

"This is a very important occasion for Asprey," said John Asprey, group chairman. A similar pageant in gives respectability and Piers Bengough, the

publicity of the very best sort. To have an association with class is very impor-tant, particularly for a company like Asprey.' Major Parker, a former

member of the organising committees for the VE and VJ Day celebrations, said the idea for a horse pageant

Ascot, and Lieutenant Colonel Seymour Gilbart-Den-ham, the Crown Equerry and head of the Royal

Mews' carriages and

The pageant will start at 9.30pm and will trace the history of the horse throughout the world. All types of horses — from Shetland ponies to carthorses — will take part in the event which an Asprey

Queen's representative at | spokeswoman described as theatre". A cheaper day event will

take place on a separate field, with tickets likely to cost £5 per car. Buckingham pointed out that the Queen had been approached independently by the committee and that the pageant was a semi-informal affair cele-

Three Heads no better than one

Garth Cartwright

The Heads Hanover Grand

HE Sex Pistols did not need Sid Vicious to make a go of it, but Talking Heads without David Byrne? Agreed, impossible, so his Manhattan musical chums have set themselves in busi-

ness as The Heads. When David Byrne decided to pull the plug on Talking Heads in 1990 the three lesser the Tom Tom Club, bassist Tina Weymouth and drumme Chris Frantz had given the world Wordy Rappinghood, and went on to produce the infamous final Happy Mondays album. Keyboardist Jerry Harrison's solo efforts were empty vehicles, so he too settled into production. Byrne's solo efforts over-shadowed them all. Hence this

reunion of sorts.

Avoiding the trap of many successful groups who end ac-rimoniously. The Heads make no attempt to emulate or replace Byrne. An album, No Talking Just Head, has them employing a variety of friends on vocals, including INXS's Michael Hutchence, Black Grape's Shaun Ryder and Blondie's Debbie Harry. As a rock pick-and-mix. No Talking has flavour while highlighting that Byrne's nervy musi-

cal vision was unique.
For their London debut The Heads were fronted by Johnette Napolitano, lately of the minor-league US rockers Concrete Blonde. The audience's collective heads swivelled every time a roadie neared the stage, hoping for the odd fam-ous gift. Shaun Ryder may often be mistaken for road crew but unfortunately the head Grape was not in the house. The tousled-headed Harrison could pass for Michael Hutchence's bigger brother but Paula's man did not make an appearance. Nor

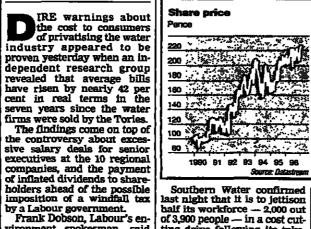
did any other guests. Napolitano features on two of the album's 12 tracks. Live. she sings them all. The Heads would probably like to pass this off as some sort of art statement. Whatever, the hugely confident Napolitano

seized every song. Weymouth and Frantz remain one of the tightest rhythm sections in rock. Har-rison exercised a tasteful array of effects. Napolitano and the guitarist, Blast Murray, leapt and the collective Heads made a real attempt to transport everyone back into the New York groove.

The Heads have devolved into something of an extender power trio. Back in 1977 they swore allegiance to Al Green rather than Iggy Pop, so put the first glimmers of funk into punk. But having opened with Memories Can't Wait and closed with Psycho Killer, both Byrne era standards, they remain a shadow of their

original selves. Until David Byrne decides his bank balance needs a topping up, it is best if the memo ries can wait a little longer. This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

Water in the UK



Average bills Unmetered, domestic, 2

The research on price rises from the Centre for the Study of Regulated Industries says that the average bill for the 92 Southern Water confirmed last night that it is to jettison half its workforce --- 2,000 out

of 3,900 people - in a cost cutting drive following its take-over by Scottish Power earper cent of consumers not on a metered water supply has increased from £71.95 to lier this year. The company yesterday announced interim pre-tax profits were up 31 per cent to £167 million. Alex Thompson, head of water at the trade union, Unison, said the size of the job losses was shocking and branded the water companies "get-rich-quick merchants".

improvements designed to meet more stringent environmental criteria demanded by EU regulation. Companies

90 91 92 93 94 95 water companies to invest in

have also had to spend more on modernising water mains increased from £71.95 to £160.99. Sewerage costs have also increased from £93.12 to £205.75.

The centre, an independent offshoot of the Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy, says the main reason for larger bills has been the requirement for ment costs on to consumers.

Water bills up 42 pc after sell-off For £30, pick your own masterpiece

"The most popular is the Auerbach," said Mr Green. "Everyone was running around trying to find it." While many of the works are sold on the first night, one of last year's star purchases, by Patrick Caulfield, remained unsold until the last day

"I don't normally buy "I don't normally buy things to make money. We normally work the other way around," said Julian Vilarrubi, a painter, standing some way back in the queue to register his purchase with Adrian Black, a businessman.
"I think I've bought a conne of John Bellamys and an ple of John Bellamys and an Albert Irving," said Mr Vilar-rubi, checking down a list of artists written in pen on his

Mr Black was less worried

to the exhibition to buy a work by a famous artist for National Lottery."

Nikki Taylor, another buyer, bought a piece last year that turned out to be by a student. But she wasn't put off. 'I just buy things because I like them," she said. "Any-way. I don't think you can second-guess because some

people try to disguise their work." Alan Miller, an organiser of the exhibition, said that although some artists may have tried to disguise their work. others were easy to spot.
"It depends how well you know the work," he said. "There are elements of the artists that are recognisable. The benefits for the artists are that it frees them from the need to live up to precon-ceived notions about their work, said Mr Green. "There's no gallery pressure Mr Black was less worried about the investment potential of his purchases.

"I've just bought three things because I like them,"



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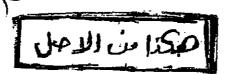
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Eurostar staff at Waterloo station, London, yesterday wait for the passengers who never came, as Channel tunnel services resumed

optact their operation would be chebraled by these

Eurotunnel's long walk to fire safety

Almost empty trains highlight concerns

as passenger services begin

Keith Harper Transport Editor

FIVE-MONTH delay in the full oper-ation of services through the Channel tunnel was forecast by Eurotunnel last night, as it emerged that rail passengers will have to walk up to 11/2 miles to safety if they need to be evacuated at the point of last month's fire.

Eurostar services resumed yesterday, although the first train of the day left Waterloo without any passengers. It had acquired four by the time it reached Paris. The com-pany said later trains to Paris and Brussels were about 10-15 per cent full and it had taken 'hundreds of bookings" for

But concern that passenger services were being resumed Fire Brigades' Union, the shadow employment secresome Tory MPs with constituencies on the Channel route. They said Eurotunnel had given no explanation for the fire, which damaged 600 yards

of tunnel and track, or why several safeguards had failed. Different evacuation proce-dures will be brought into play if a fire occurs during repair work in the damaged tunnel section. Passengers | London will take up to 45 minwill be evacuated into the safe area of the service tunnel and native rail access point — a maximum distance of 14 maximum distance of 1½ them into the networks of the into the result ways when they exit the tunnel to board a tourist Le thuttle and get out.

To avoid the fire-ravaged should a possible return to sersection, trains coming from the concern."

He said the "safe haven of the service tunnel is totally unaffected by the fire". Asked about a possible return to sersection, trains coming from the concern."

In the concern."

He said the "safe haven of the service tunnel is totally unaffected by the fire". Asked about a possible return to sersection, trains coming from the concern." tunnel to board a tourist Le Shuttle and get out.

The questions

The questions Eurotunn still has not answered:

☐ Did arson cause the fire?

☐ Was the wildcat strike of Eurotunnel workers at Ca-

not alexted to stop the train after security guards had

□ Why did it take an hour to alert the Kent fire

the tunnel for two miles?

Does the incident prove the open latticed freight wagons are unsafe?

systems fail to disperse the smoke?

Why did smoke get into the other, sealed, tunnel?

dent and transport disabled, elderly and infirm passengers who are incapable of completing the walk. A longer time of around two hours has been stipulated to clear all passen-

gers from the tunnel. Until the repairs are completed, journeys are likely to take an extra 20 to 30 minutes. A few trains from Brussels to utes longer. The additional time is needed to run trains

lais a contributory factor? ☐ Why was Calais control

□ Why was the driver not alerted until he had been in

[] Why did the driver stop

(i) Why did the ventilation

hicles will be permanently France are entering the stationed to tackle the incident and transport disabled, some 10% miles before crossing over to the northern tunnel for a further 10% miles. They then rejoin the southern tunnel again for the final part

over the single-line section of the top of our list and our tunnel, and then integrate prime concern."

journey.

Both Robert Malpas, Eurortunnel's co-chairman, and Adam Mills, Eurostar UK's deputy chairman, rejected suggestions they were putting profit before safety in recommencing services. Mr Malpas said: "Safety is absolutely at

Crossed lines

trains are making use of the two gigantic crossov

allow trains to pass from one tunnel to another.

To avoid the fire-damaged section (in the British-bound tunnel)

Sources last night suggested that the safety inquiry will recommend that the latticed wagons be abandoned as a fire bazard. If so, Eurotunnel would have to abandon an order it has recently placed

for new ones. Plans are being drawn up to spray the tunnel with a fire protection coating to raise safety standards. Work is expected to start before Christmas and will cost millions of pounds. Fire coating was proposed to the safety authorities in 1993, but rejected.

'It was like boarding the Marie Celeste. Stuart Millar ioins the brave

THE normally bustling platforms of London Waterloo's Eurostar terminal were strangely quiet yesterday, despite the resumption of passenger services after a fraught 15 days. Staff assumed their usual positions, but farepaying passengers who turned up to be among the first through the tunnel after "the incident" were few and far between.

train was running at 9pm last night, we were told to get to the station early to make sure we got a seat," said Geraldine Turner, from Kent. "When we got here it was like getting on board the Marie Celeste." She and her friend. Sharon Haydn, were mak-

"When we found out the

who ventured on to the 7.53 echoed by John Townend, service to Paris Gare du Nord. Their sense of adventure was quickly rewarded who was travelling with his - rather than have them spread throughout a train designed to carry a few shy of 800 passengers, all 23 were herded into first class

to be plied with free champagne and bottles of Beau-jolais Nouveau with a card bearing the legend "Thank you for your loyalty". Perhaps it was the alco-hol, but the atmosphere

was more of wartime defi-

ance than trepidation, even as the train slowed to the new speed limit of 60mph as it entered the tunnel.
"I think the freight sections are very different from the Shuttle or Eurostar." said Mrs Havdn, who claimed she would have walked to Paris rather than miss her annual outing. "A fire on one of the freight trains would be very different from one on this train.

We travel on the Shuttle about six times a year so I don't think this trip is a big ing the trip for lunch and shopping. They were seems to me that you are among an international safest just after a disaster." gathering of 23 brave souls That sentiment was sett, UK trains manager.

who was travelling with his wife to a meeting of the Western European Union. bombs going off in the Paris underground."

As usual, it was up to the Americans to sum up the pioneering spirit, boasting the largest national group ing with 10 passengers.

They included David and Andrea Scott, from Minne-sota, who booked before the fire and were determined to see it through. As the train reached France after 30 minutes in the tunnel compared to the normal 21
— Mrs Scott led passengers

in a toast to their bravery. Within minutes of leaving Calais, the train manager announced that we had reached our maximum speed of 186mph, whisking us into Paris five minutes early in a total time of just under three and-a-half hours. The Eurostar officials who made the trip deal." Her companion could barely contain their agreed. "We are quite pride. "It was a complete

Meet the family who put fun in dysfunctional

BANCROFT MCDERMOTT GUTTENBERG



CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Pensions shock for power chiefs

Watchdog orders National Grid of claims throughout the electricity supply industry. "Employers generally take the view that they're entitled to to repay £55m to staff fund

Labour Editor

J. picky?

asterpies

■HE National Grid has been ordered by the gov-ernment-appointed Pensions Ombudsman to repay more than £55 million to its pension scheme, in a decision which could cost the whole privatised electricity indus-

fry up to \$500 million. More than 200,000 pension fund members stand to benefit from the provisional rul-ing made in response to a complaint by two pensioners that the privatised electricity transmission firm was wrong to pocket 70 per cent of a 166 million fund surplus in 1992. The many was mainly used increase in his £12,000 a year increase in his £12,000 a year

to tund redundancies. the decision is confirmed, but a spokesman would only say last night that it was "looking" is spoke-small would only say case has here — said he de employers pension holded more job cuts over list night that it was "looking lieved Dr Farrand's findings days" and surplus appropriations and would open the way to a flood tions have always argued that

would respond before the The ruling by the ombuds-

man, Ur Julian Farrand, looks certain to intensify the dispute over the appropriation of pension fund surpluses by employers, which was triggered by a 1903 High Court judgment that British Coal could not use nearly \$500 million of its staff nearly for man, Dr Julian Farrand, looks pension fund to pay for redundancies.

Reg Mayes, a 73-year-old retired supergrid engineer and one of the two men who brought the case against the National Grid and the pen-sion fund's trustees — last

pension as a result. The company is expected to The two men's solicitor, appeal to the High Court if Peter Woods of Stephens In-

surpluses," he said, "and generally that view is wrong."

The power industry pen-sions controversy goes back to privatisation in 1989, when the Central Electricity Gener-ating Board and regional boards were split into 21 com-panies, including the National Grid, and the industry's pension fund was divided up in parallel.

In 1992, the National Grid fund was found to have an

"actuarial surplus" — an excess of assets over expected pension liabilities — of £82 million. That was divided 70-30 between the company and | that the pension fund rules do pension fund members, with | not allow the company to take the firm's share coming to £44 | contributions holidays or use million — or £55 million with surpluses to pay for early interest since 1998.

The split was made roughly on the basis of the previous ity industry has been cut relative employer-employee contributions to the scheme. But trade union opponents of | 6,800 to 3,500 in National Grid. employers' pension "holi-

pension funds represent de-ferred wages and should be-long entirely to the members. The National Grid approach was repeated across the industry, with the gener-ating firm National Power alone taking £176 million from its pensions surplus to cover early retirement costs. Around £500 million from the pension funds was taken over by the privatised firms.

But Dr Farrand has found that National Grid and its pension fund trustees — and by extension the other privatised firms - were wrongly advised that the firm had the legal right to help itself to the members' cash. As well as ordering repayment, he argues retirement. Employment in the electric-

from 144,000 to around 92,000 i since privatisation and from The company recently an-

"Going home through the smoke-swirls and the noise, the mock-burial parties for the dead rats that were being covered by the clay from the trenches, the poles tipped with knives clashing in skirmishes, I felt so sick that the flesh seemed to tighten on my bones." From Seamus Deane's Reading In The Dark, Guardian Fiction Prize winner

Books G2 page 7

Children sedated before being killed

A POLICEMAN'S wife who killed herself and her two sons after the break-up of her marriage, sedated the children before they were overcome by fumes from her car engine, a senior police

officer said yesterday.

Detective Superintendent Brian Storey told an inquest at Chelmsford, Essex, that a toxicology report showed evidence of an antihistamine preparation in the bodies of both children. Mr Storey said they had probably fallen asleep before the carbon monoxide had killed them. A verdict that she took her own life was recorded on Margaret Jarvis, aged 47, of Nounsley, Essex, who was found dead in her car in September with her two children, aged five and seven. The coroner ruled the children had been unlawfully killed. — Alan Watkins

Sore throat remedies 'waste'

ANTISEPTIC remedies are about as effective for a sore throat as gargling with warm water, the consumer magazine Which? claimed yesterday. People spent £22 million on sore throat remedies in the past year, but although some may have antiseptic or anaesthetic properties, there is no evidence they offer more relief than any other boiled sweet.

The vast majority of sore throats are caused by viruses, and symptoms should vanish within a few days. Bacterial infections last longer and can be tackled with antibiotics, but no over-thecounter remedy will cure a throat infection.

Homosexual kiss 'acceptable'

A HOMOSEXUAL kiss in BastEnders was ruled acceptable yesterday by the Broadcasting Standards Council, which investigated complaints from 41 viewers. The council said the BBC had reflected contemporary themes in a realistic manner.

It upheld complaints against BBC2's Oprah Winfrey show for showing news lootage of a murder, and ITV's Vanessa show for putting a three-year-old child in a traumatic situation during a studio debate over the merits of allowing youngsters to wear take-up and adult clothes. BBC1's post-cold war thriller, The Writing on the Wall, was censured for a scene in which a male hostage was raped by a female terrorist. Radio 1's Chris Evans was criticised for a tasteless pun referring to Anne Frank on his breakfast show. - Andrew Culf

£5m appeal for laser surgery

THE small Yorkshire port of Goole was chosen yesterday as the site for a national laser centre for the day-surgery treatment of cancer patients using optical fibre equipment. A £5 million appeal was launched at Goole and district hospital where a small unit led by Keyvan Moghissi receives requests for treatment from across the country.

The unit has been pioneering use of lasers to destroy chest and thorax tumours, a method usually restricted to skin cancers.
"We have reached the stage where we can no longer restrict the benefits of this treatment to the limited volume of our small unit, he said yesterday. — Martin Wainwright

Unconscious woman dies

A WOMAN who gave birth to a daughter while in a coma has died in hospital. Karen Battenbough, aged 25, died in Clydach hospital, Swansea, after being unconscious for 22 months. Her kidneys failed after pneumonia set in.

She was pregnant when she was involved in a car crash that caused brain damage and nearly killed her, and on May 3 last year gave birth to a girl, delivered by caesarean section.

Cash for 'cool Britannia'

THE UK's "cool Britannia" image helped boost the number of overseas visitors by 2 million to 20.4 million in the first nine months of this year, an 11 per cent rise on the previous year, the Office of National Statistics said. Visitors spent 49.8 billion - 7 per cent more than in the 1995 period. Travellers from Europe

Attacks follow dispute over cheaper fares

Taxi fire fuels fear of cab war

Peter Hetherington

AXI OWNER Martin Leonard became suspicious after the wheel nuts on one of his cars became faulty and the brakes on another started to fall. But when a stationary black cab was mysteriously destroyed by fire in a car park this week he knew that someone was out to get him. Yesterday detectives

warned of the potentially fatal consequences from the latest outbreak of "cab wars" in Darlington, Co Durham, as the local council expressed its concern and offered Mr Leon-ard a helping hand.

Recently, violence has broken out elsewhere in the country as rival operators compete aggressively for trade. In Bradford, West Yorkshire, more than 30 drivers fought a pitched battle following a disagreement between two cabbies. Mr Leonard's Darlington Cab Company has suffered a series of attacks since he offered disabled passengers cheaper fares than those of-

Martin Leonard of the Darlington Cab Company with a burned out taxi. Mr Leonard claims rival firms have targeted him waiting and have no meters. Tensions have been high since the council ruled that special tokens for the elderly and disabled could only be used in wheelchair-friendly cabs.

That effectively deprived traditional operators of a large share in an annual concheaper fares than those of large share in an annual conditivers, says he has had fered by private hire opera- cessionary travel budget threats and intimidation. "I

overturn the ruling falled in the High Court, and now the council is taking action against 35 operators to recover its legal costs. Some face ruin as a result.
Mr Leonard, with seven

vehicles and uniformed

But attempts by drivers to would set fire to a car, but I pins don't fall off for no werturn the ruling falled in didn't believe it." He believes reason, and black cabs don't he High Court, and now the the threat has been carried just burst into flames." out, destroying a black cab he bought to accommodate the disabled, although police say

the fire could have been due to an electrical fault. "Someone wants me out of

He has shut his town centre office for two days to recover. It has made me sick. It is just

the way I feel at the moment. But I am not going to give up. The way things are going, someone could be killed business," said Mr Leonard someone could be killed — yesterday. "Wheel nuts don't any of those cabs could have

Nick Wallis, chairman of Darlington's highways and transport committee, said Mr Leonard had been offered every assistance by the council to get a wheelchair-friendly vehicle on the road. "We are very concerned [about his plight] because the service he offers is very professional while the costs are



Truck drivers at Dagenham plant | against Ford, but the company leaves most of the selection procedure for the Truck the Truck will feel under press to desist from this course of right to pre-judge the induswant to switch unions over allegations of nepotism and bias

Sarah Boselev

O its embarrassmen the TUC has been called in to adjudicate on the decision of 300 truck drivers at Ford's Dagenham plant, heavily involved in a row over racism and neptism, to switch unions. The Truckfleet division,

which conveys car components from one part of the plant to another and from one actory to another, voted at the weekend to dissolve its branch of the Transport and General Workers Union, In- bean, which has been ad-

the relatively tiny United Road Transport Union, which is not recognised by Ford.

They are furious that the T&G has gone to an indus-trial tribunal alleging dis-crimination against black as-

vreunal, litau b

sembly line workers who covet the prestige driving jobs that are the highest paid — £30,000 a year — manual work at Ford. Forty to 45 per cent of the workers at the Essex plant are black, yet among the drivers the proportion drops to 2 per cent. The case, brought by six Asians and one Afro-Carib-

fleet division, where a strike could so easily bring the whole company to a standstill, to its senior drivers. It has been alleged that most jobs go to the sons and friends of existing drivers.

Their defection from the as-

sertively anti-racist T & G, with its black general secre-tary. Bill Morris, is an acute embarrassment for the trade union movement. Yesterday Mr Morris put the TUC on the spot by demanding that it While it is no longer

against the law to change from one TUC-affiliated union to another, it is against the TUC rules unless the transfer is agreed by all concerned. Given its high-profile antisure to take some action.

Mr Morris accused the action."

drivers.'

campaigns and communica-tion at URTU, said his union URTU of bringing the movement into distenute by con-doning the drivers' flight.
"The T & G is absolutely committed to securing justice for all Ford workers, including our black members, who are at present the victims of discrimination through the employment practices in place at Truckfleet. "URTU's action in involv-

ing itself through the at-tempted recruitment of T & G trade union movement into disrepute ... Insofar as its actions complicate the camreputation of the whole trade union movement, in the eyes

Douglas Curtis, head of

would do no such thing. "We were approached over two months ago by these drivers who were expressing extreme dissatisfaction, not in an effort to protect a discriminatory system, but protesting at the way they had been treated by their own union, which had decided to take industrial action without consulting them, even though the allegamembers is bringing the tion is the system is being operated by their senior

He was "utterly incensed" paign to end discrimination at suggestions from Mr Morat Ford, it is damaging the ris that the URTU had connived with Ford's manage-ment and that it was softer on

Morris, he added, "has no right to pre-judge the indus-trial tribunal" — it had yet to be proved that the selection procedure discriminatory. "What I do know from years of experience is that

wbug v

steath to

black lorry drivers are very rare. It may simply be be-cause their superior intelligence says don't work in a shitty job for low pay. "It may also mean they are

generally more outgoing and communally minded and being a lorry driver is a very lonely occupation." A spokesman for the T&G said racism in Truckfleet bad been an issue for the last five

years, and that they had only

gone to an industrial tribunal

as a last resort. "Nobody can

claim they did not know what

Budget problem. Finance solution.



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Labour left softens new code

Leaders bow to concerns of dissident MPs | secretary, spoke in favour of | Dennis Canavan, MP for Falthe code, saying that disrup- | kirk West, about not stifling by accepting clause in new discipline measure that safeguards debate on policy

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

ABOUR dissidents won a significant concession from party leaders yesterday as a code tightening up

discipline was adopted.

The leadership agreed to insert a commitment that it will not use the code to stifle debate among members of the Parliamentary Labour Party, helping to counter suspicions that the the code would be used to pick off trouble-making MPs once the party was in

Party leader Tony Blair aid: "What it is about is showing that we are a serious, professional and discithat if you are serious about governing the country well you have to be professional and disciplined."

The PLP voted 86-27 for the code, which makes it an of-

whelming, one MP calculated there were 24 abstentions, Almost all who voted against the code were from the left-

"Everyone understands

fence for an MP to do anything which "brings the party into disrepute". Although the vote was over-

wing Campaign group.
The debate was described by all sides as good-natured, though there were complaints from leftwingers that the part dealing with the disrepute

plined organisation.

tive behaviour in government could cost the party the chance of being elected for a second term.

Arguing against the disre-

pute clause, Dennis Skinner, the leftwing MP for Bolsover, said it was impossible at times to be in line with party policy. He gave as an example the switches on devolution during the summer

He claimed that the code, which comes into force in January, was aimed purely at backbenchers and would not apply to ministers. "It is not ary, we have never had it before. A Labour source said after-

crack down on debate on policy but on sniping by MPs against the leadership, which went down badly with the public.

wards that the aim was not to

clause had been cut short.

MPs such as Gerald Kaufman, former shadow foreign put down by the leftwinger

kirk West, about not stifling debate. After tinkering with it, Donald Dewar, chief whip, and his colleagues put down their version, which was

accepted. The clause says: "These duties shall not be interpreted in such a way as to stifle democratic debate on policy matters or weaken the spirit of tolerance and respect referred to in Clause Four of the

Labour Party Constitution."

The change did not satisfy all MPs. Ken Livingstone, MP for Brent East, said it was not for the whips to tell him what to think. "Only dictatorships insist on one line going out. Other leftwingers said they accepted Mr Dewar's assurances that the code would not be used against them for de-

bating public spending and other issues, but expressed concern that Mr Dewar's successors might not be as understanding in interpret-

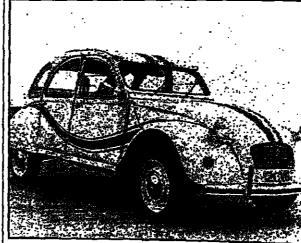
Hyundai gains top spot from Lada and Skoda as hub of bad car jibes

THE JOKES are numerous, the smirks regular. Now owners of Skodas, La-das and Citroen 2CVs, old ones at least, will have to put up with a new batch of sarcastic comments. Their cars are some of the worst old jalopies in Britain: official

A survey of Britain's 18 most worthless cars includes the Skoda seloon (What do you call a Skoda with no wheels? A brick), the Lada Riva (How do you double the value of a Lada? Fill it with petrol) and the 2CV (Why does the 2CV have a heated rear win-dow? To keep your hands warm when you're pushing

The survey, by Motor Research Ltd. publishers of the trade bible on used car prices, the Black Book, puts the Hyundai Pony in top spot. A 1986 D-regis-tered model in poor condi-tion with 100,000 miles on the clock has a dealer value of £10. The car cost £6,000

A dealer would part with little more for a Skoda, about £20 for an E-regis-



Citroen 2CV: French design classic with poor resale value

tered model which has done | these old cars are becoming | 95,000 miles, a Lada — 240 | more and more worthless." | said Mark Norman, editor | of the Black Book. | He said "most things Tento pay scrap dealers to take their car away.

Other cars in the top 10 include the Fiat Panda, the Ford Fiesta and the Lancia "As the MOT test be value of VWs and Au comes tougher and tougher also depreciates slowly.

He said "most things Teu-tonic" are the best cars for keeping their value. An E-registered Mercedes is val-ued at £7,000 and an H-registered istered BMW 3-Series is valued at £10,000. The value of VWs and Audis

Old bangers

1. Hyundai Pony GLS, D-reg, 100,000 miles: Worth: £10 2. Seat Marbelia, E-reg, 95,000 miles: £20 3. Skoda 105 saloon, E-reg. 95,000 miles: £30 4. Lada Riva 1200 saloon, Freg. 85,000 miles: £40 5. FSO 1300 saloon, F-reg, 85,000 miles: £60 6. Lancia Y10 Fire, D-reg, 100,000 miles: £70 7: Lada Samara 1500, F-reg. 85,000 miles: £70 8: Flat Panda 750L, D-reg, 100,000 miles: £70 9: Citroen 2CV6, D-reg. 100,000 miles: £70 10. Ford Fiesta 1.4 Ghia, Dreg, 100,000 miles: £90 Figures based on value to

dealers for below average curs A spokeswoman for Skoda, which was taken over by VW in 1991, stoutly defended the car, "Our research tells us that the thousands of owners that are running previous Skoda models are delighted

with them." She added: "In fact, the UK Skoda has the highest customer satisfaction rate behind the Mercedes."

Court told of panic and pupils hiding in fright as man who was obsessed with mass killers slashed at class at a teddy bears' picnic

Teacher saved machete attack tots

Judge praises courage

Vivek Chaudhery

NURSERY teacher defended her young pupils from a machete-wielding attacker who was obsessed with two mass kill-Lisa Potts, aged 21, described how she tried to get the children into the school during a teddy bears' picnic as she was being slashed.

Police found newspaper cuttings about Thomas Hamilton, who shot dead 16 children and their teacher in Dunblance last March, and Michael Bryant, who shot dead 35 people in Tasmania on the bedroom wall of Horret Campbell, accused of seven attempted murders.

The picture of Michael Bryant had a heart and cupid's arrow drawn around it. Rich-ard Wakerley, QC, prosecut-ing said that Campbell had told police that Bryant and Hamilton had been misunder-stood by society and 'had been driven to do what they did, namely indiscriminately kill others, just as he had

Campbell, aged 33, who cesca Quintyne's face, break-



Horret Campbell: 'driven to do what he did'

has admitted charges of caus-ing grevious bodily harm with intent and one charge of attempting to cause GBH. At one stage during the hearing at Stafford grown court yesterday, Ms Potts was handed the blood stained machanical machanical stages. chete used by Campbell Hold-ing the wooden handle using a plastic glove, she demonstrated the overarm slashing movement Campbell used to slice open four-year-old Fran-

arm to protect my face and he lashed out at me. He was moving towards me as I was trying to run with lots of children around me'

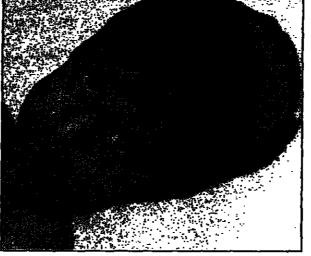
'I put up my

🗕 Lisa Potts

lived in a tower block overlooking St Luke's Church of
England infants school in Biakenhall, Wolverhampton,
where the attack took place,
denies attempted murder. He
has admitted charges of causing specimes hodily harm young children, aged between three and four, Ms Potts and three mothers who were waiting outside the school.

A class of 20 children were in the grass area at the side of the school having a teddy bears' picnic.

"A more normal and happy afternoon it is probably impossible to imagine. The attack was indiscriminate. He struck the seven of them mainly about the head, face



Ahmed Malik in hospital, and (right) Lisa Potts, who shepherded children to safety

and upper body, some more than once and some when they were on the ground having been hit. You will not be surprised to learn that most lashed out at me. He was moving towards me as I was try sustained really serious

Ms Potts said that she saw Campbell attack two of the mothers, Wendy Willington and Surinder Chopra. She then started running with the children into the school.
"I was then trying to gather

the children up. It was crazy from then on. Children were holding on to my skirt and some of them went under-neath. They were hiding with

by Campbell. "I put up my arm to protect my face and he ute to her courage saying that she acted with "great

ing to run with lots of chil-dren around me." tect other toddlers, putting her arms around them as Campbell slashed at them with the machete. Campbell had used blows of "great force" as he lashed out at the

children and her. Campbell then chased Ms Potts through the nursery class as she attempted to gather the children but despite being hit, she continued

Mr Justice Sedley paid trib-

Earlier, the court heard that the machete used by Campbell had the words "You filthy devil" and "666 marks the devil" written on it. During the attack, he was wearing a deerstalker hat with an Iron Cross drawn on

After the attack, Campbell returned to his flat, lighting to small fires in the tower block as a diversion. He changed clothes and hid in an empty flat until the next day, when he was arrested.

School staff warned not to 'play the hero'

Donald MacLeod Education Correspondent

warned not to "play the hero" with potentially violent intruders or parents — as the Govern-ment launched a £66 million school security pack-

Extra spending on safety was ordered by Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, following the murder of Philip Lawrence, a London head teacher, and the killing of 16 children and their teacher at Dunblane primary school in Perth-shire by the gunman Thomas Hamilton, who then killed himself.

Training for teachers is to be included in the package — funded jointly by central and local govern-ment. "Good security in-

volves everyone in the school," said Mrs Shephard. Leicester university and the Suzy Lamplugh Trust — set up by Diana Lamplugh after the disappearance and research violent incidents in schools, which they be-lieve are at present under-

reported.
Tony Dickens, of the trust, said lessons in self-defence could be worse than useless for teachers.
"People easily forget what
they might have learned on a two day course. Then if they decide to intervene they could very easily get

Teachers should not see parents on their own in sitnations where trouble might arise, or they should not do so behind closed doors," he said.

John Andrew, general secretary of the Professional Associations.

sional Association of Teachers, who sat on the Government's school secu-rity working group, said he hoped teachers were not being encouraged to "play

the hero".
"Part of the training has to be not only what to do but what not to do," he

said.
"There are circumstances thing to de is to walk away. What teachers need is training on how to recognise the presumed murder of her

Food bug victim may sue

Erlend Clouston

Ford

A 74-year-old Wishaw man cause for concern. The num-ber of suspected cases of food

has drawn up plans to sue John Barr and Son, the Wishaw butcher linked tothe cooked meat believed to be the source of the infection.

single mother and her family all required hospital treat-ment after allegedly buying meat from an outlet that received meat from Barr's premises.

Other victims could be eligible for claims above £100,000, if it is proved that the contaminated meat af-

18th birthday party of Lauren MacFarlane in Wishaw within two hours of a second official request that he with-

cut and dried. The law in scotland says that if you are a supplier of goods and those goods are deficient, then you of eating meat provided by appeal.

are liable." The unnamed | Scotland's current butcher of the year.

eat.
The statement also alleged that Mrs MacFarlane was who died in Monklands hospi- | insurers in compensation for | twice told to "go ahead and evening with the press office

Environmental health offion the evening of November 22 and again early on Novemsuspect product off his

strain on the resources of the Scottish National Blood to keep pace with the demand for fresh plasma, used to flush

as death toll rises to 7

HE E. coli epidemic in Scotland claimed its seventh victim yester-day as the first shots were fired in what is likely to be a multi-million pound compen-

tal. Airdrie, was one of 21 pa- her distress. tients who had been giving poisoning has risen to more

Mr Fyfe said he did not anticipate having to go to court. "From the information I have gut, it looks as if it is fairly

Mr Pyfe said if his client

goes ahead with her claim she would be seeking a four-fig-ure sum from the butcher's

than 330, with confirmed cases rising to 176.

A Glasgow lawyer, Cameron Fyfe, revealed yesterday that a Lanarkshire woman supplied cold meat for the

draw such products from sale.
In a statement yesterday,
Lauren and her parents, William and Fay MacFarlane,
said they too were consider-

The family claimed that the uncle who collected the sandwich fillings on the morning

of November 23 had tele-phoned the shop to confirm that the meat would he safe to

have a good time at the party" when she double-checked that at Law hospital, Carluke.

cers from North Lanarkshire council had visited Mr Barr ber 23 asking him to take the

The outbreak has put a Transfusion Service as it tries E. coli-generated toxins out of

Mafia woman loses case

yesterday failed in the High Court to block her extradition to Italy, where she is wanted

on drug trafficking charges. Maria Merico, aged 26, asked two judges to rule that moves to send her back to Italy were "unjust and op-pressive" as there had been too long a delay in bringing proceedings. Her counsel, Owen Davies,

told the judges: "The question in this case is whether the sins of the father have been visited on the daughter."

hand woman".

The memories of witnesses would have faded over the years since the date of the offences of which Merico was accused. Her trial would be prejudiced as a result

Mr Davies sald extradition would be oppressive because Merico, a single mother and a British citizen, was trying to provide a life in England for her five-year-old daughter.

Rejecting her plea for a writ He said that the father, Emilio Di Giovine, was in jail in Portugal for drug offences Phillips, sitting with Mr Jus-

Why pay more?

boss who worked as a larmaid in Lancashire tions that she was his "right-lary failed in the High tions that she was his "right-lary failed in the High tions that she was his "right-lary failed in the High tions that she was his "right-lary failed in the High tions that she was his "right-lary failed in the High tions that she was his "right-lary failed in the High tions that she was his "right-lary failed in the High tions that she was his "right-lary failed in the High tions that she was his "right-lary failed in the High tions that the de-lary failed in the High tions that she was his "right-lary failed in the High tions that the de-lary failed in the High tions that the High tions the High tions that the High tions the Hi Italy. Her daughter was being

cared for by relatives, and Merico's house in Poulton-le-Fylde, near Blackpool, had been sold to meet a court order requiring her to ac-count for the proceeds of drug trafficking to the tune of £80,000. Therefore she had "no roots

in this country which it would be oppressive to dis-turb by sending her back to Italy". Merico faces up to 15 years

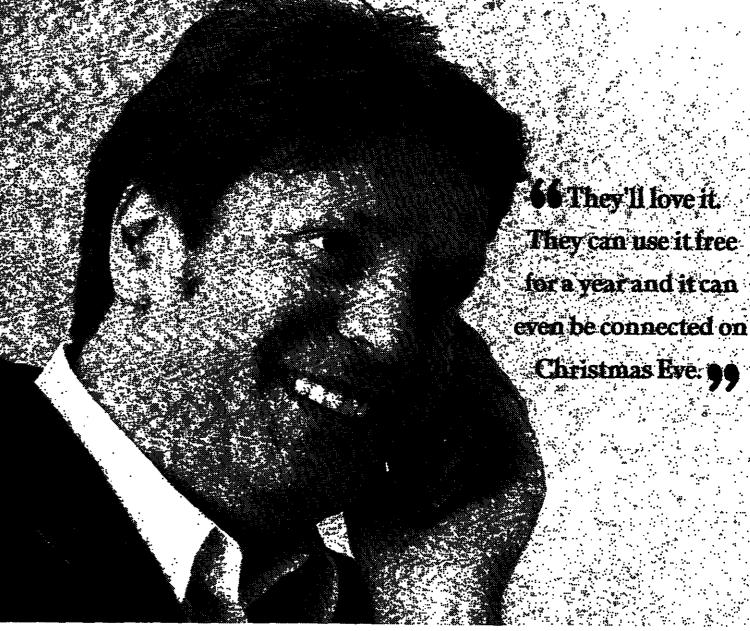
in jail if she is found guilty in Italy on four charges of raf-ficking in cocaine, heroin and haghieth The second hashish. The smuggling operations were alleged to have taken place from Spain and Morocco to Milan and Florence.

Merico was arrested in April, to await extradition to

Italy, immediately after serving a jail sentence in this country for smuggling £1.6 million of Mafia drugs money - said to have been the proceeds of her father's activities into Britain, hidden in a

During the extradition proceedings, armed policemen guarded London's Bow Street magistrates' court, as it was alleged that Merico herself was linked to violent crimes which had been committed during the reign of a 200strong Mafia gang in Milan and Florence.

The court heard Merico had lived in Italy from a very early age but had returned to England after her mother and father separated when she was nine years old, and had grown up in Poulton-le-Fylde. At the age of 18 she pursued her contact with her father and moved to Italy.



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Hague judges accuse London conference on Bosnia of sidelining efforts to bring offenders to justice

War crimes 'downgraded'

HE 11 judges of the international war crimes tribunal in The Hague yester-day accused the Bosnian peace conference in London of downgrading the attempt to bring indicted war criminals to trial.

There was tough talk from Western leaders at the twoup. Bosnian leaders were told to comply more fully with the

help diminishing and sympa-

thy waning.
But in their unprecedented But in their unpresentation public statement issued in The Hague, the judges ex-pressed their "deep concern" that the organisers of the London conference had dropped the auestion of co-operation with the war crimes tribunal from the agenda.

The judges recalled that the 1995 Dayton agreement which ended the war in Bosnia had insisted that "compliance with the requests and orders of the international tribunal for the former Yugoslavia constitutes an essential as-pect of implementing the

"It is also regretable that the international tribunal has

not been invited to attend the conference as a participant, but only as an observer." British officials insisted that the tribunal was in attendance — in the form of its chief prosecutor, Judge Louise Arbour — and on terms identical to previous

Bosnia conferences. Opening yesterday's London meeting, the Prime Min-ister, John Major, set the tone by promising to continue to help Bosnia's reconstruction.

But, the judges said. "This it tional help will be conditional in Kresimir Zubak. It was the essential aspect is not reform on the willingness in Bosnia first time they had attended and Herzegovina to imple an international conference ment all aspects of the peace

agreement."
The Nato secretary-general Javier Solana, said the alli-ance was prepared to commit its troops for a further 18 months in a new "stabilisation force" replacing the cur-rent peace force, I-For. But he too said: "We expect

you to commit yourselves —
in deeds as well as words — to
making the peace endure."
Mr Major held talks with Bosnia's three co-presidents
— the Muslim leader Alija Izetbegovic, the Serb Momtogether.
"None of us underestimates the task you face," Mr Major

said. "You are rebuilding a nation, only a few months after a bitter war, with the wounds and divisions not yet

Although not in equal meathe Dayton accords by ham-pering freedom of movement, preventing refugees from returning home, committing human-rights abuses and refusing to hand over war criminals.

foreign minister, Lloyd Axworthy, said: "We need action, not words. Without firm action on war crimes, reconciliation is doomed."

Diplomats said the Canadians were privately calling for the tribunal to have "sheriffs" with their own intelligence and powers of arrest.

But Britain remains wor-ried about incurring casualties in operations to detain war criminals, although it is to increase its contribution to the international police task force, whose powers are to be extended to investigat-

Built to (and '97, '98...)

France 'tipped off about bombs'

Paul Webster in Paris

HE probability that Algerian Islamic extrem-ists planted the bomb which killed two people on a Parisian commuter train on Tuesday evening stengthened yesterday with the revelation that the French secret services were tipped off more than a month ago.

stepped up in city centres, police studied reports from foreign intelligence services in Afghanistan and the arrival of an Algerian commando allegedly preparing a bombing campaign. Despite descriptions, border police failed to intercept suspects who may still be in

Although police deny that the security operation set up after the 1995 bombing wave had been wound down before the explosion at Port Royal station on the RER express urban rail network, internal

apparent lack of vigilance. An official source confirmed that there had been warnings in recent weeks of preparations for an attack by the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), which is involved in a civil war in Algeria. The ber after reports that he was chances of an attack increased with the weekend referendum in Algeria which ap- four-man Algerian com-

Rabah Kebir, an exiled leader of Algeria's outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), condemned the attack yester day, saying that bombing in-nocent people served "neither of Algeria nor the



French troops prepare assault rifles for patrols near Eurostar trains at the Gare du Nord station in Paris yesterday

lowed from Afghanistan to ible Islamic extremist refuge, the Middle East since Septemas as are Brussels, Copenhagen planning to attack French in-terests. Early last month a proved the exclusion of mando was reported to be religious bodies from politics. heading for France. Their names were known and may have been obtained when Italian police rounded up a GIA logistical group early in

and some German cities. In November last year Rachid Ramda, alias Abou Fares, was arrested as a GIA suspect in London.

examining faxed communi-ques sent two months ago by Antar Zouabri, who is be-lieved to co-ordinate GIA activities from a secret base.

policies started by the move-ment's deposed leadership, which was linked to last year's violence in Paris and

Lyon.
The method, timing and lo-cation of Tuesday's bomb did not publicly claim any of last year's explosions but gave unpublished details in internal bulletins.

Similar gas canister bombs Yesterday French detectives resumed questioning of the police in several European centres, notably London, France were justified and that which killed eight people, and a general fear that more

terrorist suspect had been fol- | which is considered a poss- | the GIA intended to pursue | ending on October 17, when | bombs are inevitable could be

19 people were hurt in a simi-lar operation. Tuesday's bomb was made of the same explosive as that used last year and was filled with similar metal debris.

The reactivation of the Vieipirate security plan, mobilising thousands of troops and police to protect public areas, added to the general air of gloom and shock in the capital, where traffic was much

PHOTOGRAPH: MICHELSINGLER

catastrophic. Posters were put up calling or vigilance and hundreds of litter bins were sealed to pre-vent them being used to plant bombs. Police stepped up surveillance in immigrant suburbs where dozens of North Africans suspected of extremist links were rounded up for

deportation last year. Tension is likely to in-crease on Monday when the trial opens in Paris of an Is-lamic group linked to an attack in Morocco in which two Spanish tourists died.

He said that during one

nasty row yesterday morning a policeman pulled a gun on a

Welsh driver, who had rejected a suggestion to take a back road "only fit for a horse

The blockade is affecting the Greek economy and offi-cials fear a food shortage in

But the farmers, who are one of the country's largest

work-forces, show no sign of retreating. Last night the gov-

ernment appealed to famers and other trades unionists. "They have to understand that the government has

given as much as it can give," Nikos Farmakis, the deputy minister of labour, said.

meet and in the course of meeting them sacrifices have

"It's not that we in Athens are all bad blokes. The gov-ernment's got certain goals to

and cart".



vided in two and sealed off from its neighbours for the seventh day running yesterday as thousands of irate farmers continued a crippling blockade by tractors trucks, farm vehicles and makeshift camps in protest at the government's economic austerity programme.

Among them, adding to the mayhem, British lorry drivers led a bad-tempered, multi-national counter-block

strategic points. The farmers' plastic-tent shelters, some with tables and their sitting room furniture up our own blockade out of along with them to settle retaliation because the police are just not doing anything."

barricades in a show of oppo-

'Our démands have not been met. We're not going to

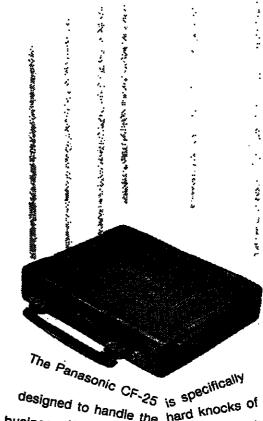
sition against the unpopular fiscal measures of the prime minister, Costas Simitis, the farmers have effectively cut Greece in half by massing along the country's main

orth-south road. The police reported growing numbers of marooned international lorries. Tempers became particularly strained in the western port of Pairas, where lorry drivers have been stranded longest. Else-where, British drivers are spearheading a revolt.

Dave Cooper, who is en route to Turkey with a load of textiles, has been stranded near the central town of Katerini for five days.

give in now; we will go on and The country's harbours have also been crippled by striking dock workers, and teachers, doctors, customs

officials and transport employees have promised to take to the streets in similar displays of solidarity next week.
Earlier this week the farmers
rejected a 10-point peace package offered by the



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Notebook Computers

From a Russian with love

James Nicek in Moscow

OST Muscovites, cynical by nature, suspected the giant billboards were a trick to make them buy something they did not want.

Others saw the adverts, featuring a beautiful woman gazing adoringly at all and sundry with the message "I love you", as the latest wheeze by the mayor, Yuri Luzhkov, to bring the feelgood factor to the But even Mr Luzhkov

does not love Muscovites that much. Rather, in an extraordinary act of romantic gran-deur even by the standards stan soul' is not an empty cigarette lighters.

of "New Russia", or possi-bly in an example of mon-mersant magazine. mersant magazine.
Svetlana said: "What do I feel now, passing by the posters? A perfect high." strous egotism, the adver-tising campaign turns out to be strictly a one-to-one affair between a shoe salesman and his wife. Alexander Sharapov, the

30-year-old boss of the Moscow shoe firm Vena Moda Austria, has spent, advertising executives estimate, tens of thousands of pounds swamping the city with 6ft by 6ft images of his wife Svetlana's face.

He says he did it partly to compensate her for disrupting her modelling career, but mainly out of love. "I wanted people to understand that business is

ing stars of a growing gossip industry in the media.

The presidential election campaign of the parvenu pharmaceutical baron Vladimir Bryntsalov consisted of him and his wife flaunting their luxury lifestyle. In the latest issue of the business journal Profil

young tycoons boast about their expensive tastes in

riches, and their extrava-

gant and ostentations ges-

tures, are increasingly fas-

Russians: many are becom-

European trade artery

Helenz Smith In Athens

REECE remained di-

Queues of stranded interna-tional lorries are building up at frontier crossing points with neighbouring Bulgaria and Turkey, completely jam-ming one of Europe's main freight arteries.

ade yesterday, thrown up in a fit of pique by truckers pro-testing that the Greek police weredoing nothing to help. It is the second time in two weeks — after the blockade of Calais — that British drivers The country's nouveaux have been trapped by roadside action on the continent. But nothing at Calais could compare with these scenes -

ordinary a ragtag army of more than are becom- 10,000 colourful tractors, some festooned with Christ-mas trees and decorations, has now fanned out across Greece, seizing toll booths and blockading national road and rail links at more than 40

chairs set out and amply laid with food and drinks, line the motorways. Increasing numfood and drinks, line the He said drivers were get-rways. Increasing num-ting hungry and angry. He have taken to bringing said: "About 80 of us have set

Greek farmers block

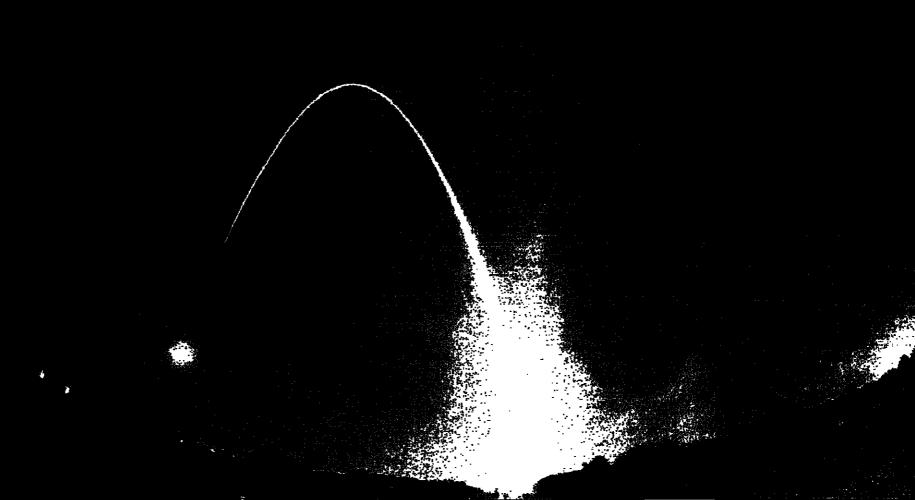
in a desperate attempt to lift the siege, the Socialist government scrambled to find a compromise solution vester day, agreeing to hold emer gency negotiations with the farmers. But the initial retort from farmers was a threat to stay out in their tent cities "until Christmas and be-

Since erecting the first 100

give in now'

to be made." But Dimitris Nana, leading the protest from the farmers stronghold in Larissa, said: "The government has so far not satisfied one of our demands. We're not going to

Blast off heralds new era in Mars exploration



The rocket carrying Nasa's probe is shown in a time-exposure shot lifting off from Cape Canaveral and passing by the rising moon to the left

Nasa's probe will help answer the question tantalising scientists: was there life on the Red Planet? Tim Radford reports

NASA spacecraft with a robot rover on board began a 310 million mile journey to Mars yesterday, after 1992.

The Mars Pathfinder lander the second United States probe in a month — is due to float down by parachute and bounce gently to rest on air- puter glitch. bags on the surface of the Red Planet on July 4 1997. It will be the first visit for

21 years, since the Viking lander probes made an initial tentative exploration of Mars, and pronounced it dead.

This time things are different. Nasa's instruments are designed to detect evidence of water, and therefore proof of at least bygone life.

Since August, scientists in the US and Britain believe they have identified circumstantial evidence of microbial life in at least two separate Martian meteorites of wildly

Martian exploration has a long history — the Soviet Union launched its first attempt in 1960 — but now the stakes are higher. Russia's latest attempt,

which was to have been the second of three shots at Mars in a month, crashed in the Pacific with several British experiments on board on No-

Nasa has taken no chances. It delayed a launch on Monday because of the weather, and on Tuesday because of a com-

Yesterday the mission shot out of Earth's orbit and tilted towards a Martian rendez-

vous at 23,000mph.
"It is like a friend going away — but it is a good feeling because that was the ulti-mate goal," said Cheick Diarra, a navigator at the Jet | ping the topography and Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

Pathfinder took off with one potential problem, however: low voltage on a navigation

Although the last of the launches this year, it will be the first to arrive.

It will make a direct "hit" on the Martian atmosphere at 17,000mph. Within two minutes, the friction of the en-counter will slow the craft to 900mph, at which point the caheard, computes, will pay out a large parachute. This will slow the lander to

lander and the spacecraft will bounce — probably a dozen times — to rest on what scientists believe is a rocky plain once scoured by floods in a region called Ares Vallis.

Petals of the spacecraft will unfold, two ramps will slide down, and a six-wheeled, 10kg rover called Sojourner will beetle down and begin examining the nearby rocks, relaying information back to

Two months later the Global Surveyor will arrive and begin a series of orbits around the Red Planet. It will spend at least two years mapmeasuring mineral distribu-tion, and will transmit daily Martian weather reports back to Earth.

It will also photograph — if it gets a chance — the notorious "Face on Mars" in the Cy-donia region.

Japan will launch its Planet B mission to Mars in 1998, and there will be one more Nasa surveyor and one more lander. There may also be two more landers on the Martian ice cap in 1999, and more missions are planted by Nasa in 2001, 2003 and 2005.

The ultimate goal, an-155mph, in an atmosphere 100 nounced years ago by Presi-times thinner than Earth's. dent George Bush, who con-Then, about 100 yards spicuously failed to announce



Riddle of the Martian 'face'

Viking missions pro-duced tantalising acid and alkaline swamps, mages of the surface of and at crushing pressures Mars, including the notorious "Face of Cydonia".

watchers firmly believed bricks of Inca pyramids, otherwise. They saw the face, and other features stomachs of bees trapped in mapped by Viking, as evidence of an ancient civilisation on Mars, perhaps talked of the possibility of wiped out in the cataclysm which stripped away the Martian oceans and

All the evidence from the

years biologists have been finding microbial life in improbable, and even what ing for traces of vanished were once thought impossi- | civilisations — but if the ble, places on Earth — deep | Mars orbiter camera catches

WENTY years ago, the | temperatures in volcanic vents, in lakes of sulphuric deep in the Earth's crust. They bave "awakened" bacteria from inside the Planetary scientists called it an "artefact"—a trick of stomachs of frozen mamnlight and angle. UFO-watchers firmly believed bricks of Inca pyramids, bygone life surviving on Mars — if there was water. In August, and again in atmosphere.

For 20 years scientists have shaken their heads.

October, United States and British scientists identified evidence of microbial life in meteorites known to Viking mission showed that have come from Mars.

Mars was dead and inhospiThe Pathfinder and Mars table to life.

But this view has changed. In the past 10 for life, but for evidence of

water, now or in the past. Neither craft will be look

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No half-way House

Labour mustn't do deals over Lords reform

Apart from devolution, few of Labour's proposals have yet become matters of high controversy. Yet the measures are wide-ranging, radical and likely to arouse strong opposition, especially from those most threatened by them. Yesterday, on the House of Lords, part of the resistance began to take shape.

Labour has pledged to reform the Lords in two stages. In part one, to be implemented early in a Labour government, hereditary peers would lose their voting rights. In an interview in today's New Statesman, shadow Lord Chancellor Lord Irvine reveals that Labour has already drafted a short bill to bring this about. Part two, though, is more obscure and much more distant, with Labour committed in general terms to a reconstructed second chamber, possibly involving an elected element. In reality, only part one is on the agenda. Part two remains unthought-out and Lord Irvine is very guarded about what it might contain.

Restricting the Lords reform agenda to the abolition of voting rights for the hereditaries has always carried obvious dangers. Chief among these is that part two of the reform could be almost permanently delayed, and that as a result the Lords may become an ermined quango controlled largely by the prime minister. Labour has hinted that it will try to mitigate this problem by establishing an appointments vetting committee procedure. But as the current leader of the Lords, Viscount Cranborne, said in his Politeia lecture yesterday (part of which we reprint on the opposite page), the probability is that, if Labour wins, we will be stuck with this halfway house for some time.

Yet the fact that reform in stages will create genuine problems is not a sufficient reason to oppose it outright. At to rattle hereditary sabres.

are a government desperate to make tax

cuts. Our front page exclusive on a new

round of cuts to war pensions shows

just how desperate ministers have be-

come. And just how cynical too. Last

week's budget statement included an

innocuous paragraph on war pensions

suggesting a new package was in the pipeline to "simplify policy and proce-

dures". There was a promise to widen

entitlement to war widows' pensions

and a suggestion that access to supple-

mentary allowances would be eased.

Now our social services correspondent

has been leaked the truth: a new round

of cuts - only the second since war

which will leave the pensioners 250

million poorer and affect between 14

and 19 different benefits. No wonder

urgent confidential letters have been

passing between the Social Security

Secretary and the Chief Secretary on

how to "massage" the true news. They

disclose ministers plotting to split the

ex-service lobby by providing "sweeten-

ers" to four different groups but the

war pensioners' lobby - and their

vocal allies on the backbenches - will

face of the unanimous hostility of ex-

revive one of its greatest triumphs: the

Frank Loesser musical Guys and Dolls.

Would it be crazy and shameful to revive Guys and Dolls?" the director

Richard Eyre is said to have asked a

staff meeting. Certainly not, said the

meeting. And quite right too. Why such

negative thinking? The thought of stag-

ing a guaranteed money-spinner no

doubt came into it. But only one justifi-

cation is needed for reviving Guys and

Dolls. It is one of the greatest musicals

ever written: and it has rarely if ever

been better done than it was by the

National, with Eyre directing, in 1982.

The perfection of this enterprise raises

one of the oldest questions about musi-

cals: are works where music and lyrics

come from the same hand inherently

better than those created by collabora-

tors? Guys and Dolls was not entirely

The story begins in 1993 when in the

surely not be that gullible.

pensions were introduced in 1947 -

War pensioners in the firing line

There's only one response to ministerial meanness: attack

ONCE BITTEN, twice shy? Not if you people with disabilities assessed at 40

service organisations, ministers ended There are few places where the regi-

the entitlement to war pensions of all | mental tie remains so strong. Now

people who had lost only 20 per cent (or) these faithful supporters are being di-

Guys and Dolls: the unsung secret

THE NATIONAL THEATRE is about to | Loesser alone was responsible for that

Loesser's own work. The characters better than two. Those who doubt it

were lifted from Damon Runyon. But should book for the National now.

follows. The cuts due next year will one response to the sound of gunfire-

exclude new war pensions awards to resistance and retaliation.

Great musical writers come not in battalions but singly

IF LABOUR wins the general election, then politics could soon be dominated by the constitutional reform agenda. one time, Conservative peers seemed ready to take just such a stand. But the absurdity and electoral unpopularity of such a reactionary response has now got through to them, and yesterday's contribution from Viscount Cranborne was more subtle. It was, nevertheless, based on a pretty flimsy argument that, as amateur politicians, the hereditaries are better able than professional MPs to represent the common man in Parliament. Tell that to the common man and

the common woman. The crucial part of Viscount Cranborne's lecture reiterated the so-called Salisbury/Addison doctrine under which the Lords do not oppose Government manifesto commitments. On the face of it, that pledge would seem to imply that the Tories of 1997 will not "die in the ditch" (as their 1910 predecessors intended to do against Asquith's reforms) to oppose Labour's plans. If that is what Viscount Cranborne means, then it is a welcome provisional acceptance of the democratic will.

But Viscount Cranborne's pledge doesn't quite say that. It appears to be conditional upon Labour agreeing that the whole committee stage of its constitutional reform bills will be taken by the full House. Such a condition, though superficially attractive, is unreasonable. It cannot be right for legislative convention to make constitutional bills practically unpassable in a modern parliament. It needs to be reformed so that standing committees have a scrutiny role as they do in all other bills. And in any case the unelected Lords should not apply conditions to their acceptance of the will of the electorate. Lords reform may not be the talk of the taverns vet, but it is a popular and progressive reform. For his own good and for ours. Viscount Cranborne should resist the temptation

per cent or below; new claims from

people over 65 will be excluded even if their disability exceeds 40 per cent: new

stricter rules will govern the review of

entitlements; and perhaps most mean of

all, the current process of issuing

reminders to people to return claims

forms or seek increases to their current

idge, who placed widows in the deserv-

fits) and all other single mothers,

separated, deserted, divorced or unmar-

ried, with the undeserving poor (wel-

fare). Liberal reformers have always

disliked this hierarchy but what Mr

strong resonance on Tory benches.

perfect attuning of music and words

which makes Luck Be a Lady, Take Back Your Mink, and Sit Down, You're

Rocking the Boat such guarantees of roof-raising euphoria. This is not to

decry the great collaborators, from Gil-

bert and Sullivan through George and

Ira Gershwin, Rodgers and Hart, and

later (though not quite the same) Rod-

gers and Hammerstein, through to such

modern titans as - Rice and Andrew

Lloyd Webber? Possibly not. But even

the best collaborations - G and S

included - were constantly strained

and finally sundered. Some might argue

that Johnny Mercer wrote even better

with partners like Harold Arlen or

Harry Warren than on his own. But the

best of Loesser, and the best of Sond-

heim today, are conclusive proof that,

in this particular context, one head is



Letters to the Editor

You're still wrong, Jack Straw

As a recently retired chief police officer, let me disclose the way in which a not entirely dissimilar piece of legislation works in practice. The interception of Comm-

unications Act, 1985, concerns itself with "telephone tapping".

Its procedures for protecting the public from unwarranted instrusion include the appointment of a senior indeed. appointment of a senior judge to oversee the system and report his findings to Parlia-ment. These safeguards have never been seriously questioned and have stood the test

One of my past responsibilities as an assistant commis-sioner at New Scotland Yard was to receive and vet all applications for intercept war-rants from chief constables up and down the country. I was always aware that, before very long, the judge would be conducting a meticulous in-

Jack Straw concerning
Clause 89 of the Police Bill
(Hugo Young, November 28
and December 3; and Letters,
November 30). enced judge, appointed for the purpose, is by far and away the most effective way to en-sure the integrity of the pro-cess. With such a system in place, the initiation process is not the key to addressing the problems highlighted by

Hugo Young. He is unneces sarily fearful. Sir **John Smith**. 23 Winterbourne. Horsham, West Sussex RH12 8JW.

THANK you, Hugo Young. Those of us who com-plained in the 80s of unauthorised break-ins and document thefts, on behalf of either our selves or others, were told we were either malicious or

paranoid or both.

Now we learn from Jack Straw that these things have merrily been going on all the time but that now, lucky us, they're going to be properly authorised and that our prospective Home Secretary is going to vote for them. Is he

HAVE followed with interest the difference of view clude an interrogation of me between Hogo Young and so as to reassure himself that our actions were justifiable.

It is my view that the over
HAVE followed with interclude an interrogation of me Labour losing the election, and ended up with recommending "economic democracy, public regulation and more varied forms of ownerlause 89 of the Police Bill

It is my view that the over
Judith Cook. Newlyn, Penzance Cornwall TR18 5BW.

> **∐**UGO Young does Mr Straw a disservice by:
>
> assuming he knows what he is talking about;
> • thinking he is interested in civil liberties; and

 hoping he would take a principled stand on anything Anyone who can make Michael Howard look wet is

Ian McRobert 115 Park Road, Peterborough PE1 2TR. ACK Straw's monumental inconsistency is no acci-

dent; he wrote an entire pamphlet of 37 pages in 1993 to justify his "refreshment" of Clause IV. He started it with "this pamphlet does not suggest that Pt 4 Cl IV should be 'dumped', or that the Party should abandon any commitship" as well as the dumping of the Clause and its substitution with his own

Thirty-seven pages of nitpicking and tortuous argument under the guise of ideology which created discord

where there was none. He was wrong, wrong, wrong then too . . . Les Turner. Manor House, 146 Tonbridge Road, Maidstone ME16 8SP.

AR from opposing, as any true libertarian would, the Government's near-fascist threat to civil liberties, under the guise of the new Police Bill, Jack Straw tries to justify his and New Labour's ac-

ceptance of it.
Once again he appears determined to prove the old adage "You can't drop bricks without Straw". New Labour? New cant! John Sheeran.

Cheltenham GL58 9LH.

Chunnel leaves us in the dark

THE decision to allow Eurostar trains through the Channel Tunnel two weeks (Row as tunnel trains resume service, December 4), not least because the reasons have not been made public. The hall-mark of the decision-making has been secrecy, as it has since the first days of the

Channel Tunnel project. There is reason to be wary. Running trains both ways through a single tunnel creates the possibility of a coll-ision. A cardinal feature of the Channel Tunnel system was that there should be a running tunnel for each direction. Repair work may well hamper any evacuation. Apparently, the service tunnel was dam-

aged, yet evacuation into it is a feature of fire protection.

Media coverage of the fire has failed to demonstrate just how lucky were the 34 people on the train. Had the fire spread to the first six lorries on the train, rather than the last six, it is extremely likely that deaths would have

resulted, possibly all 34.
The wheels were welded to the rails: that is, some melting of steel took place, and the Hot gases in the tunnel would be expected to be higher — say 1,500C. If all six lorries were burnt out, the peak heat release rate may have been 600 MegaWatts; this was plainly a very fierce fire.

Eurotunnel's complacency was also evident at a tunnel safety conference in 1995 when Sir Alastair Morton confidently asserted that the Channel Tunnel was 20 times safer than travelling on a 50km stretch of open rail. I openly questioned this at the time. I was later privately supported by a Eurotimnel employee who had been too afraid of victimisation to say

similar things in public. The Safety Authority needs to insist on significant changes. At the least, the HGV carriers should be enclosed. This fire may also foreshadow a serious fire on a car-shuttle train. One safety measure would be to separate passen-gers from their cars; it is not too late to do this, although it may eat into Eurotumel's profits. It took the loss of 167 lives in Piper Alpha to bring about a fundamental re-think there. Do we need a multiple-fatality fire in the Channel Tunnel before anything signif

icant changes? (Dr) Alan N Beard. Department of Civil and Offshore Engineering, Heriot-Watt University,

The Labour ward

DON'T think your leader writer (December 4) can have been listening to the same speech as the one I de-livered on Tuesday on the luture of the NHS.

payments will be ended. There will be You say we have failed to match the Tories' supposed 500 winners — widows — but up to promise of real increases in funding year on year. There's 50,000 losers (over five years) with the additional curb on higher deafness pena simple reason for this: the sions forecast to stop at least 10,000 Tories themselves have alveterans a year from getting a pension. ready failed to match it. The The Social Security Secretary has forward figures in the Budget warned his colleagues to expect "a Red Book showed that a standstill, not an increase, i storm". It is up to the widows and explanned by the Chancellor for service organisations to ensure he is the health service for subsenot disappointed. There has always quent years. There is an in been a hierarchy of welfare claimants crease for the coming year yes, and I have said Labour in the UK going back to the 1834 Poor Law Act, which gave widows a special will match it. But for the years beyond that, the Tories have already reneged on their place. This continued through Beverown claim of annual real ing category (national insurance bene-

As to my proposals to end the internal market and to replace GP funding with GP commissioning, you wrongly accuse me of failing to curb management numbers and

Lilley understands is that it has had bureaucracy.
The proposals I have mad will reduce to one-tenth the number of contracts and agreements in the NHS; they will end the system of individ less) of their hearing. Now much worse | rectly challenged. Surely there is only ual patient invoicing which has created a flood of unnecessary paperwork; they will reduce management costs and numbers at both single-practice level and in health au-thorities; and they will remove the remaining regional tier of bureaucracy. That is a substantial assault on bureaucracy in anyone's

> We are crystal clear about the way to proceed. There will be no single-practice fund-holders holding their own commissioning budget as of right. The reason that system must go is that it has created unfairness between patients - better access to treatment for some, worse for others. with no account taken of clin-ical need. We also want to see

other members of the pri-

mary-healthcare team — such as nurses and health visitors - playing a full role in that Chris Smith MP. of State for Health. House of Commons,

London SW1A 0AA. We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied: please include a full postal address. We may edit etters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We repret we cannot acknowledge those not



Hats off to Richard Branson

READ with interest that Richard Branson's Virgin Group has won the franchise to operate BR's CrossCountry trains (Branson steams in to CrossCountry running, November 30).

For many years the train conductors have been expected to dress neatly and wear official uniform, including the and hat, even in the hottest weather.

oftest weather.

One may now expect them Derby DE23 7DD.

with crumpled collar and jeans. After all, their new chief, Richard Branson, seems to think it appropriat And, of course, the conductors can be unshaven with un-

tidy hair - just like their K J Barlow. 3 Rabown Avenue.

Litigious pupils cross-examined

as critical analysis (Don't sue the teacher, December 2). The cantral theme of Tory reform of the public services has been the fraudulent use of "choice" and "accountability" to destroy the social bonds essential for individuals to have any real sense of owner-ship of these services. The only way individuals can ex-ert influence is through the marketplace; citizens have become consumers, forced to use what economic power they possess to access "rights". possess to access rights. This process has been most destructive in education. Chris Wilkins. 13 West Street

HE US pattern of litigation is part of the price of an inadequate welfare state: it marks the back-door recognition that society does owe : living to those who, through no fault of their own, cannot earn one. As usual, there is no such thing as a free tax cut. Lord Russell. House of Lords,

Leicester LE1 6XL

London SWIA GAA

WORK in the health service and am almost daily shocked by people's lack of responsi-bility for anything that hap-pens to them. Why do people seemingly believe that it is always someone else's job to pick up or put together their

DESCRIBING the use of liti-gation against public ser-vants as "creeping American-isation" cannot be passed off Bristol BS2.

FO sue is a self-centred, an rogant act. If a student is old enough (and sharp-witted enough) to sue, he shows him-self to be sufficiently intelligent to learn. In fact, he proves the defence. Sue Mack. 34 Winchester Road. Surrey KT12 2RH

WHY not sue the parents too? They made them live in the area, and their lack of income presumably prevented the children from achieving their full potential. Come to that — these children should also sue their local representa-tive of the Deity for his negli-gence in letting them be born. David Wilding. 13 Makins Road. Henley on Thames RG9 1PU.

AS anybody considered legal action against the Secretary of State for Education for underfunding schools? 20 Brunswick Street, Swindon SN1 3NB.

OME of my ex-pupils have gone on to be very success-ful. I am thinking of suing them for a share of their earnings and seek legal assistance Dennis Charman. 62 Cobboild Road

Reading into it

CHRIS Wills of Birkbeck College (Letters, Decem-ber 4) is right to cast aspersions on Eric Morley's asser tion that "intelligence is the main factor" in choosing Miss World. Birkbeck's record 320point trouncing by Manchester University on Tuesday's University Challenge leaves me in no doubt that intelligence was not the main factor in the selection of their quartet. Perhaps Birkbeck's team look great in beachwear. William Barrett. 6 Burns Road, London NW10 4DY.

WE are told that reading broadens the mind. Dr Ian Paisley tells us (November 29) that he has 15,000 books in his library. Something's not quite right here somewhere. È Dyer. 8 Victoria Road, Rhyl

RED grouse numbers fall, while raptor numbers rise. But to imply that we are conducting "a determined campaign" to link the two is fanciful (Society, November 27). We have not prejudged the issue, but act only on sci-entific research. Charles Nodder.

Game Conservancy Trust. Fordingbridge, Hants SP6 1EF. | Edinburgh EH14 4AS.

A Country Diary

tional building. In spring, divided with hurdles and pallets, it provides room as a maternity ward for difficult lambings and overnight ac-commodation for all ewes with new lambs until they are at least a week old. In winter it is a hay store and also provides space for the fero-ciously-powered meadow grass fiall-cutter which either tops the seeding grass in July or gives an early cut of June hay. Despite the fact that our flock is currently entirely Herdwicks, the native sheep of the Lake District fells, where extrally they have a feet of the tark that water and the control of the goodness of golden summer. So the targular they have a feet water and the control of the goodness of golden summer. So the targular they have a feet water that the control of the goodness of golden summer. So the targular that the control of the goodness of golden summer. So the targular that the control of the goodness of golden summer. So the targular that the control of the goodness of golden summer. So the targular that the control of the goodness of golden summer. So the targular that the control of the goodness of golden summer. So the targular that the control of the goodness of golden summer. So the targular that the control of the goodness of golden summer. So the targular that the control of the goodness of golden summer. So the targular that the goodness of golden summer. So the targular that the goodness of golden summer. So the targular that the goodness of golden summer. So the targular that the golden summer that the golden su rain arrives. Snow proves winter with a leaking roof. The first autumn rains cascading through the branches of the 90ft sycamore which overhangs the shelter proved

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: Our that the roof was leaking in largest field shelter is, in architect speak, a multi-functing that stage it was too late to that stage it was too late to start with rolls of asphalt roofing felt and mouthfuls of flat-headed nails. Emergency neasures were needed so we put a large tarpaulin over the roof to delay the solution of the leak problem until a warm day next spring. That at least would keep the bay bales dry, which is very im-portant since sheep are fussy can relax. The only worry is that westerly gales hit this point on an upslope with rare where surely they have a generation etic memory of getting wet, we notice that these ewes trot rapidly to the shelter when polytunnel (heavy gauge polythene sheeting over half that these are fair weather hoops) here. We only kept it on the ground in one gale by shelter for the duration. Sumthe combined weight of the mer neglect saw us start the two of us hanging from the overhead hoops to complement the ground ties. And in one gust we both felt our feet leave the ground.

COLIN LUCKHURST

Matthew Norman

THE £6 million spent on refurbishing the House of Commons tea room and its kitchen over the summer was not, it seems, enough. So dissatis-fied are MPs that managers have now put out a little complaints book, and this is filling up. "Daylight robbery having to pay £1.30 for a slice of ham," thunders junior education minister Cheryl Gillan. Robert Key, Tory MP for Salisbury, has no problem with the food, as you'd guess from his girth, but is displeased about the crockery: "No mugs in the morning" is his complaint. Pride of place goes, how-ever, to that spunky little fallow Alan Duncan, one of Brian Mawhinney's office-boys at Central Office and the kind of far-right character who follows the Redwood line that there are billions to be saved from wasted government spending. Mr Duncan's complaint is brief and to the point. "No toothpicks," he writes. Toothpicks — and morning mugs — have now been pro-

HAT lovable chum Gyles Brandreth is in the wars again. The MP's puzzle page is absent again from OK! magazine, while his navigational prob lems continue in Chester. A few weeks after getting lost on the way to the football ground, Gyles has become confused about his constituency boundaries, sending hundreds of letters to electors in Saughall, which lies in the Ellesmore Port and Neston seat of Labour's years I have had the privilege of being your MP," boasted Gyles in his missive, "I have made it a priority to keep in touch." Mm.

MITTIC: HEAVES

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MHE new edition of Pro gress — Dolly Draper's DIY manual for aspirant New Labour weenies contains a readership survey, and one question asks "which public figure reflects your political opinthe 11 listed are Tony Blair, Ken Livingstone, Gordon Brown and Robin Cook . . . but who can this be, be-tween Neil Kinnock and John Prescott? Good Lord, it's Peter Maddison. Oofy Wegg-Prosser confirms this refers to Mandy Mandelson, but denies an intended slight. "I'm sure it was nothing to do with Dolly Draper," Only rapidly rebuts. "I'm sure it was just a printing mistake." Was it

■WO days after we refused his demand for an apology, for the story of how Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber had a theatre's toilet cleared so he could pee alone, his PR man Tim Bell responds. "If you got off the telephone from time to time," he writes stroppily, "people would be able to respond to your en-quiries." How weird: the phone's "call waiting" beeping device must be faulty. "Repeating your silly insulting story does not make it any more true." Or, of course, any less. No, we stick by the story, and pose this baffler: how is it that our sources failed to notice Sir Tim, who claims to have spent every moment of the evening at the composer's side? This remains a matter of the gravest national importance: the search for the truth goes on.

ple to soldiers every-where, Defence Secretary Portillo - "Polly" to his German counterpart Volker Ruhe — has been spotted in flight from News Bunny. During the recent row over the sale of his constituency association to Mc-Donald's, the Enfield Independent reports that Polly drove home one evening to see the Live TV rabbit on his doorstep. Instantly, he turned the car around and fled, later confessing: "I was determined not to be in the same camera shot as a six-foot rabbit". What a

Nadvert for a German-made insecticide has been withdrawn in Guatemala, reports the Forteen Times, after share holders' fears that the slogan "Sudden death is a German speciality"—a reference to the Euro96 penalty shoot-out - was open to misinterpretation.



Inside John Major's tortured soul

Commentary

Hugo Young

HEN they open up the late John Major, as he has whimsically ob-rved, they will find Maastricht engraved on his heart. A tour of his living mind, five years after the treaty that set Europe on the way to economic and monetary union, would yield, I guess, some-thing less than a definitive etching. The picture is blurred. It is stained with de-fiance and regret, with bitter-ness and yet an implacable need for yindication. It is yellowed with scepticism, but also refulgent with belief. His meditation today would begin with the mem-ory of a false prophecy. In

1991 he thought that EMU would not happen. He told many people that the conti-cental dreamers would never get their convergence ac together. When he negotiated the British opt-out from the single currency, it was on this basis: that we would remain a participating negotiator in a project that would

expectation strongly reinforced the decision not to veto Maastricht, which was always a possibility, albeit a dangerous one. Opt-out not veto was the ideal strategy. as long as the dream failed to materialise. He still believes the project ought to fail. He thinks the original Six, with their new

outriders in Spain, Sweden and Austria, will reach convergence only by fiddling the figures. Actually, the evi-dence for this is doubtful. At present the largest obstruc-tion to progress is not Brit-ain's long-discounted hostli-ity but Germany's determination to drive the hardest bargain. It's not clear that Germany will soften, and it's certain she won't do so before the Dublin summit. More likely, it will be well into next year before the po-sition is clear. But it suits the Tory Euro-sceptics, who are now beyond recall to any gen-uine scepticism, to carica-ture the position as yet an-

Prime Minister does not dis-He has also come to believe that the inherent case against EMU surpasses the case in its favour. The famous pads, on which be draws a line down the middle and checks out the balance of argument, now finds a longer

other stitch-up, and the

have no down-side for us, for list on the anti side than the the simple reason that, in the pro. He doesn't fancy standend, it wouldn't happen. This ing up in the House of Compro. He doesn't fancy stand-ing up in the House of Commons to defend a macro-economic policy over which he has lost control. The thing he thought would never happen is now laid out before him with all its dismal implications for the man in his position, the local accounting of-

ficer for tax and spending.

And he's aware of one more thing: that if the Conservawill be virtually no chance o with be vitally to chante to sterling entering EMU. I say "virtually" not "absolutely" because finance and politics are fickle forces, and one must leave open the possibility that the costs of exclusion for Britain will become so obvious that the screaming of British business and finance overwhelms even the scepticism of Michael Portillo. But I wouldn't bet a euro on it at odds of less than 50-1.
So Mr Major is a sceptic

He has grown more sceptical by the year, as he has grown more tactical, to so little avail, by the month, the week and latterly the day. He is also, however, a negotiator on both the international (Kuropean) and the domestic (Conservative) stage. He hesitates to follow the logic of the phobo-sceptics for reasons even more substantial than the need to satisfy Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heselthem sweet. But just as the because he has given in to the big beasts. Mr Clarke was uphraided

this week for de-stabilising the Cabinet. An extraordi-nary charge to lay against someone who has simply been affirming the collective policy agreed last April, but indicative of the caverns of malignity from which the sceptics' tactics, in all their ruthlessness, now emerge. What the sceptics want is to break the collective line, aided by a press that finds ever more imaginative ways of transmuting into "fact" the propaganda, misinformation, invention and rumour daily confected by a group of politicians. I cannot recall a time, in fact, when there has been so little distinction be-

The thing he thought would never happen is now laid out before him with all its

dismal implications

actor and commentator, as there now is between John

In supporting Mr Clarke, the Prime Minister, believe it than his party in much. First, he wants to stay at the EMU table for reasons that are not the party and its leader, there's still no doubt which the party and its leader, there's still no doubt which the party and its leader, there's still no doubt which the a national perspective. than his party in mind. First,

run-up to the Intergovern-mental Conference, it's a dif-ferent story: there Brussels is awaiting the British election before trying to make pro-gress. But on the currency question, paradoxical though this sounds, announcing our departure would destroy the contribution which, in our

own interest, we make. Second, Major's attitude to EMU coexists with an opposite attitude to the EU. Sceptic on the one, he is a passion ate believer in the other. He has absolutely no interest in seeing Britain withdraw from the EU. He regards any such flirtation as madness Along with Mr Clarke and Mr Heseltine he understands the perilous signal that would be given, to entirely wrong effect by prematur self-exclusion from EMU "Realistic" and "honest" though it might sound, it would be a triumph for the school of Tories whom Major believes to be utterly

These are the ruminations, as I work them out, of a tormented soul. He hasn't handled them very well. Having got EMU wrong from the start, he has watched it sunder his party. The party has run him, he has not run the party. The imprudent words of his spokesman, that Maastricht was "game, set and match" for the British prime minister, have lived to haunt Redwood (or any one of another 50 Tory MPs) and Charles Moore (or any one of another five national newspaper editors).

In supporting Mr Clarke, leaves the British negotiating hand has been literally paralysed by the requirement that every sub-clause shall first be agreed by the Cabinet's coordinating sub-committee or not, has something more and then not changed without lengthy references back to London. But as between

great error of pro-EU Tories was to see him once as a principled European, so the great error of the anti-EU Tories is to think that the only reason he takes his present line is mental Conference, it's a different story that a Bruscole is glory freezes us in the past



Isabel Hilton

ORGETTING your history is said to be the besetting sin, the thing that condemns you to repeat it, but I wonder. Senator Mitchell observed at a lunch in London recently that he sometimes felt that there was entirely too much history in Ireland, too much memory to allow anyone to live in the present. As I wade through a renewed spate of second feel the same about Britain I am surprised by the sense of weariness that creeps over me as I read again about Nazi submarines and Argentina, about the Duke of Windsor's Nazi sympathies or about the allegedly shocking revelation that men with what the Nazis (and the Daily Telegraph) called "Jewish blood" fought in the German armed forces during the war. History is a fine thing, but is the fascina-tion with the stories only about a nation with a sense of history, or is it something less commendable, something a little sadder — a symptom

talgia for its moment of glory? There was a notorious Con-servative Euro-election campaign in the 80s that featured footage of the D-day landings, the second world war as a metaphor for European Union It was laughable at the time and won them few votes. but now that the Eurosceptic paranoia dominates the national dialogue it looks less amusing. We are not living in 1944, nor indeed 1942, and it does no service to the memory of Britain's finest hour to

of a nation still mired in nos-

re-run it as pastiche. Why are we still expected to be buffeted by revelations about a conflict that ended two generations ago and which must now, for a vounger generation, be of the same texture as Agincourt? There are two kinds of

secret at work here, and both have a pernicious effect. The The relentless pursuit of first is the real passion for cheap food is causing very secrecy among the Allies, notoriously the British and the French, that has kept official have been founded on a lie papers under wraps for far but at least it engaged with too long and hampered the the present and developed a work of historians for a generation longer than is justifiable. It was mirrored, of course, by the unavailability of the archives in the Eastern heard only in these islands, Bloc. As the archives open, but one that renders us inthey produce revelations, creasingly incapable of hear-change understanding and img the tunes of today. It's impose an obligation to look time to stop, before we beagain. come a living example of that
The second kind of secret is other historiographic maxim:

a commercial passion for revelation applied to history—if their past are condemned to there is to be revelation, the live in it.

commercial case goes, there has to have been a secret. It is the uncovering of the secret

— at least as far as the publisher's hype goes — that sells history, not the brilliance of the exposition or the analysis. The problem is that the selling of history primarily for its secret-busting qualities produces distortions and hype. The "Hitler's Jewish Soldiers" story in this week's Daily Telegraph was only the latest in an undistinguished line: the fact that men with one, two or three Jewish grandparents had served in the German armed forces was presented, falsely, as a revelation and, worse, gave the headline-writers an opportunity — which they rushed at — for anti-Semitic innuendo. No matter how vigorously historians like Anthony Glees of Brunel University protest that such men thought of themselves as German, Jewish, and point out that all this has long been known — it's the original story that will linger in the collective

Is this anything more seri-ous than the undignified spec-tacle of a young academic overselling his wares to buy 15 minutes of fame? Anthony Glees thinks it is. For him it's a distortion of the organised memory that history repre-sents. And the fact that we are so vulnerable to this kind of distortion is a reflection of the fact that more than half a century after it was over, we cannot let go of our finest hour. It's time to say enough. Why? Because this is not a healthy act of memory but a neurotic distortion of the present and a miserable fear of the future.

VERY country in Europe was deeply world war but Britain's is a outdo even the British in the secrecy of their official archives and that secrecy bred what French historians have described as national fever grounded in the great secret of collaboration. It produced an undertow of betraval that informed national life to the present: Mitterrand's career is only the most striking example of how wartime decepnational politics. But this did not stop the French from facing the post-war world with a vigorous national project. vision of the future. Britain's

A US company is being allowed to ship here soya beans genetically engineered to resist a herbicide. They will be used, unlabelled, in processed food. **Nico Ladenis** won't have them in his kitchen

Soya beans go bananas



ONT like my tomatoes I a redder tomato than some of arger, I don't want the juicy red tomatoes I know them redder. Longer-lasting bananas make me sick of bananas, and soya beans that resist germs remind me of mad doctors with German accents and gurgling flasks in laboratories creating humans, or vegeta bles or fruits. The age of Fran

kenstein is upon us. The advance of science is cally engineered one! now invading our food. Some of the results are cata-

this way the seasons are spreading even wider. This is a good thing and it makes us always honest in their all happy.
"Eradication" has become

an obsession. Our fruits, crops and staple commodities eradication in one direction can cause a terrible imbalance in nature. We must never forget that in eradicat-ing organisms of an unwelto man and to animals. Breeding super beans or super tomatoes is interfering with nature. As a chef and restaurateur, my primary concern is with the flavour of the food produce we buy, its variety, and its healthy provenance. The look of the fruit and the

is unnecessary. A food scien-tist can never convince me that genetically engineered fruits and vegetables look bet-ter and taste better. If they don't look or taste as nature intended, I don't want them. A sour note here and there is welcome. Even a sun-dried tomato is better than a geneti-cally engineered one!

erions problems. I commend cows fatter, and beef heavier, the glorious beef industry of motives. Big food-manufacthis country at any rate is on turing companies, supermarkets and retailers are the money in the short term, and | main handlers of what we eat we repent over a very long period. Why can't they leave our food alone?

They should be our scouts and sentinels. Instead, the Suffice it that transport and consumer relies on voluntary refrigeration are becoming bodies of committed individ-highly sophisticated. This uals and groups like Friends means summer crops from of the Earth and Greenpeace Venezuela grace our tables in to sound the alarm and to the middle of winter, and in crusade with passion and

appeals.

The latest scare is also, possibly, the most insidious. Now we have the assault of the we have the assault of the genetically engineered soya bean: who knows what hor-rors future generations will experience? The choice whether to eat beef is obvious. It is there, you see it. You come variety we may be kill- can eat it or you can reject it.
ing those which are of benefit Not so with soya beans. Their use in by-products is so exten-sive it can slip through our guard with ease, and being vigilant may not be enough. What we need is pressure; pressure to highlight these potential horrors and pressure as consumers to reject what we have assessed to be

vegetables we select to buy, prepare and cook is very im-portant. The colours of fruit Nico Ladenis is proprietor of and vegetables the world over Chez Nico restaurant, Mayfair

Robert Cranborne claims that hereditary

peers are increasingly coming to

from which politicians have not escaped.

The amateur is never wholly disinterested. No patronage. They are not paid. They do it, dare I say represent the common man in Parliament

nism and should be removed from Parliament lt is, it says, unacceptable that in 1996 a man should have the right to sit in Parliament simply because he is his father's eldest son. Furthermore, there is an inbuilt Tory majority in the House of Lords which occasionally frustrates the will of a Tory majority in the House of Commons, but which far more frequently frustrates the will of a Labour government and they have statistics to

Let us examine these propositions. The first has to me superficially more to me superficially more substance than the second. The spirit of the age is not instinctively sympathetic to hereditary constitu-

HE Labour Party holds | tional rights. There are, that the hereditary peerage is an anachrom and should be avoid from Parliament. House of Lords are not obviously less virtuous than viously less virtuous than age, and it is a body chosen members of the House of by lot. The inventors of de-Commons. It may be impertinent of me to suggest it,

but to my mind neither are they obviously less able. Secondly, we live in an age of professional politicians. Even in the 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th centuries there were profes-sional politicians in both Houses. However, it is only relatively recently that the House of Commons has come to be composed exclusively of men and women who spend the majority of their time on politics. This has commons have a politicians who make un Houses. However, it is only

man can be. However, he is | it, from a sense of duty and less interested in climbing of privilege. They are not a the greasy pole than the group to be despised in an professional. It is helpful to otherwise specialist House professional. It is helpful to otherwise specialist House the body politic for Parlia- of Lords and in a hicameral ment to contain a body of amateur politicians. The only such body we now have is the hereditary peer-politicians. mocracy — the Athenians — would say that was the fairest system of all.

As it happens this body of amateurs is changing its Lords forcing a Tory govnature quite rapidly. Traditionally the public sees the hereditary peerage as a col-lection of chinless wonders who live on their broad acres shooting and hunting

Never since 1947 has the House of Lords pushed a Labour government into using the Parliament Acts. The only instance of that has been of the House of ernment to do so in the case of the War Crimes Bill. This is not only a matter

Lords' judgment, but in one important respect has be-come the subject of constitutional practice. That practice is known as the Salisbury/Addison doctrine. It was first enunci-

Save the gifted amateurs in the Lords the House of Lords then that "whatever our personal views, we should frankly recognise that [the proposals contained in the Queen's Speech] were put to the country at the recent General Election and that with the full knowledge of these proposals, returned the Labour Party to power. The Government may, therefore, I think, fairly claim that they have a mandate to introduce these pro-posals. I believe that it would be constitutionally wrong, when the country has so recently expressed its view, for this House to oppose proposals which have been definitely put be-

> fore the electorate In recent days Labour spokesmen have accused This is not only a matter me of planning to renounce of trusting the House of this doctrine — a conspiracy to commit in this case an ungrandfilial act. May I, with due grandfilial mod-esty, commend my grand-father's doctrine to you?

Lard Cecil (cr. 1603), who holds the

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A place in the sun for Soviet music

vich, Edison Denisov, who sofa next to a real live Westhas died aged 67, as the eldest, became the leader and protector of young composers threatened by the powerful Soviet musical establishment Together with Sofia Gubaidulina and Alfred Schnittke, Denisov was the third member of the "Holy Trinity" as younger Russian musicians used to call them, half joking, half in awe.

The courage and single-mindedness Denlsov dis-played in his early years stood him in good stead for the rest of his life. He himself said that it was "my Siberian stubbornness" that enabled him, in the stifling world of post-war Soviet music, to evolve a musical language unlike that of any Russian com-poser before him, and to create with it an astonishing profusion of works in almost every medium from electronics and the most intimate chamber music through to symphonies, concertos, films, operas and ballets.

It was this stubbornness too that led to his role as the champion and protector of under the same sun as other the Soviet Union's younger composers. For more than 30 Russians to be the "colyears young composers whether from the next-door building or from as far away

ern composer: Luigi Nono, perhaps, or Henri Dutilleux or Pierre Boulez. Denisov was one of the

most influential Russian composers and teachers of his age. But he was also a bridge, a man who devoted much of his life to bringing Russian music and musicians, so long isolated and of necessity turned in on their own preoc-cupations, back into contact

He was studying mathematics at Tomsk when he sent compositions to Shostakovich

with the international musical community. But the con-tact Denisov sought was by no means one-way. A passionate patriot and a believer in the Russian tradition, he wanted kinds of music. He wanted leagues" and not just the patronised poor relations of

F THE three composers who dominated Soviet music after the death of Shostako and Denisov show and Denisov who are not never to a real live West to Stating on a soft never to a real live West to Stating on a soft never to a real live West to Stating on a soft never to a real live West to Stating on a stating of the stating of the stating of the lives (1964), reflects an off the lives (1964), reflects and off the lives (1964), reflects tific" rather than Christian

His childhood musical ex-periences were haphazard and it was not until he was studying mathematics at Tomsk University that he plucked up the courage to send his first compositions to Shostakovich.

In 1951, with Shostakovich's warm encouragement and at the second attempt, Denisov entered the Moscow Conservatoire. After gradua-tion, he stayed on, teaching counterpoint and analysis and, later, orchestration. As his fame, especially in the West, grew through the 1970s and 1980s, he applied to teach composition. He was refused and it was not until 1990. when the old musical order had virtually collapsed, that Denisov was finally granted this "right".

Denisov's works of the early 1960s reflected his dis-covery of the "forbidden" music of the first half of the 20th century — Debussy, Ravel. Stravinsky, Bartok, Schoenberg. Berg, Webern and Ives — jostled in his imagination with the newer works of post-war composers like Stockhausen, Boulez, Xenakis, Ligeti and Cage. All of them were composers

enthusiasm for Boulez's Le Marteau sans Maître (Denisov's piece is dedicated to the Frenchman). Thereafter, French themes were impor-tant in Denisov's output. A series of pieces based on the writings of Boris Vian culminated in an opera, L'Ecume des Jours (1981). There was a other opera on a French play by Picasso. More recently dition, orchestrated from piano score an entire early (and previously forgotten) opera by Debussy, Rodrique et

piece *Peinture* (1970), which strikes a delicate and evocative balance between the sonoric and coloristic effects of felt he had found his true lan guage. Denisov poured out music in a style which some-times seemed to change little, but which adapted itself fluently to almost every me-dium. Particularly strong are many concertos he wrote for distinguished soloists like Heinz Holliger, Gidon Kremer and Yuri Bashmet. These

With the short orchestral



Edison Denisov . . . part of the Soviet Union's 'holy trinity' who helped protect younger composers

proudest, and perhaps the strongest and most individual piece he ever wrote, was his 1980 Requiem, which mixes liturgical texts with poems by Francisco Tanzer. Here are all Denisov's musical traits,

as well.

He wrote many songs and cycles of songs, including settings of Pushkin and Blok.

The work of which he was confessional quality: what his friend and colleague Gubaidu-lina called "Edik's lyrical

intimacy".

For the last four years, Denisov suffered the effects of a nearly fatal car crash and later inoperable cancer. He

the then avant-garde, and an unexpectedly romantic and Russian expressiveneness drawn from Glinka, Denisov as well.

of orchestral sound, the hints periods of chemotherapy in a but to stretch and elaborate of half-remembered French music and Russian liturgical his rich orchestral technique as well.

of orchestral sound, the hints periods of chemotherapy in a but to stretch and elaborate of half-remembered French music and Russian liturgical ducing two more concertos, a but to stretch and elaborate of half-remembered french music and Russian liturgical homophony, the expressive completion and orchestration as well. stubbornness" with which be had approached every other obstacle in his life. of Schubert's oratorio Laza-rus, and a second symphony. He leaves a sun and a Whenever he could he daughter from his first marreturned to Moscow and to his friends and his students at the Conservatory. A new chamber piece Women and

Birds was performed in Mos-

cow on the day be died, by the

ACM ensemble which he

Gerard McBurney Edison Vasalievich Denisov,

Turning a bright light on minimal art

exemplars of minimal art in standard fluorescent lighting tube as their sole element, might be seen as an extension urinals, snow-shovels and bottle-racks. Flavin was closer in spirit to the industrially fabricated primary, geometric forms of Judd and Robert Morris, to John Chamber lain's colourful sculptures using mangled and crashed car bodies, and to the lyrical colour-field painting of Jules

Gene Davis. Flavin straddled the contradictory worlds of minimalist rigour and painterly lyricism. He was a painter in light, a sculptor of colour who flooded walls, the corners of rooms and gallery spaces with the fizzing glow of his banks and armles of strip lights. His work was at once gestural and geometric, and his careful placement of a single lighting strip on the wall of a room could alter one's perception of the space around it.

His work was concerned as much with the surrounding place humming tubes them-selves, with their everyday housings and flexes. Yet Flavin's work was never a dry or arid experience, and his bat-teries of lights, arranged into geometric formations, hortzontal and vertical stacks. bundles and wedges, were often subtly spectacular, as they marched in regular forthey marched in regular formations across gallery floors, formed doorway barriers and influential works in fluorescent strip motograph countest usson gallery

sickly and vertigo-inducing in its effect on visitors. Yet Flavin's work was never vulgar. the humble, commercially available strip light, never attempted fake magic or trickery. His work had, of course its own material difficulties museum curators had to buy up replacement stocks of outof-production colour tubes.

AN FLAVIN, who has died of complications generated new colours from diabetes aged 63, was one of the leading hued tubes, and bathed the stract Expressionist. He first space and spectators alike in showed his light works in the 1960s. Although rarely shown in this country, Flavin, along with his contemporaries Don Judd and Carl Andre, had an important influence on Dia Foundation is a playful abstraction. Flavin took abstraction. Flavin took the direction of contemporary and somewhat unnerving exambition shared but never works, which utilised the be cheerful in its colour, and achieved by Yves Klein and Jules Olitski.

His influence on subsequent generations of artists in the US and Europe is still being felt — in the light and space installations of James Turrel and in Bruce Nauman's aggressive neon signs. Philip Vaughan and Roger Denton's 1970 strip-light double-helix tower on the roof of the Hayward Gallery is a baroque, de-A New Yorker, Flavin rivative descendant of Fla-born April 1 studied at the New School of vin's work, while Flavin ber 30, 1996

himself made a wall-bound tower of lights in homage to the Russian Constructivist Vladimir Tatlin, and dedi-cated an entire series of works to British potter Lucie

Flavin, the altar-boy son of was always attracted to the solemnity of the mass and th pomp and candlelight of the church service, but created works for a secular world. Flavin celebrated his second marriage in 1992, to Tracy Harris, under one of his own works, installed in the cupola of New York's Guggenheim

Despite recent encouragement, a permanent installation for a church in Italy was unrealised. The new National opened less than a month ago in the renovated Hamburger Bahnhof, is illuminated at night by Flavin's work, an arrangement of red and blue neon tubes mounted on the building's exterior.

Adrian Searle

born April 1, 1933; dled Novem

Publisher with an ear an Irish Catholic truant officer and a mother whom he once described as a "stupid, fleshly tyrant of a woman", for a hit round the clock

EN YEARS before the Beatles, a song called Rock Around the Left the army and he spent the 1950s building it into a potent as a parallel and complementary adjunct of his publishing interests and the label scored success in its face, and allowed the Ink publishing interests and the label scored success in its face, and included the Ink publishing interests and the label scored success in its face, and included the Ink publishing operations. Kassner viewed President as a parallel and complementary adjunct of his publishing interests and the label scored success in its face, and included the Ink publishing interests and the label scored success in its face, and included the Ink publishing operations. Kassner viewed President as a parallel and complementary adjunct of his publishing interests and the label scored success in its face, and included the Ink publishing operations. Kassner viewed President as a parallel and complementary adjunct of his publishing interests and the label scored success in its face, and included the Ink publishing operations. Kassner viewed President as a parallel and complementary adjunct of his publishing interests and the label scored success in its face, and included the Ink publishing operations. Kassner, an Austrian-born shore and local talent of the music publisher who has died aged 76, for an advance of \$250. Written by Tin Pan vani and Russ Conway. Alley veteran Max Freedman and publisher Jimmy Myers Gallery of Berlin, which (who used the pen-name of toire was destined to be the Jimmy DeKnight), the song was recorded by Bill Haley and his Comets, a country band gone pop. It catapulted them to fame and huge record sales after being featured be-hind the opening credits of The Blackboard Jungle, a con-

> remained Kassner's greatest publishing coup and a corner-stone of the business he built during the post-war years. Kassner was one of a now almost extinct breed of music men — shrewd, instinctive, with a fair share of undiluted luck and a capacity for hard bargaining. He was born in Vienna of Jewish extraction and and had his early hones

troversial Hollywood drama

about juvenile delinquency. It

of composing operas dashed by the Anschluss. A perilous escape by the 17-year-old across Germany, Holland and Belgium to England followed. On arrival, he was interned and then transported to Australia. He was later allowed to return to England and enlisted in the army, serving in France and Germany from 1941-1945 as an interpreter attached to a Canadian tank regiment. He married in 1944 arrival of his first child, a daughter, while sheltering from a heavy German bombardment in France. Her birth inspired Kassner to which became a hit when sung by Vera Lynn in 1946.
The Edward Kassner Music

dominant factor in popular music, and in 1951 he opened renowned Brill Building, the home and focal point of American music publishing for many years. He began acquir-ing other catalogues during the 1950s, including the **Broadway Music Corporation** at the end of the decade. This was run by Albert von Tilzer, who had penned the Andrews Sisters hit I'll Be With You In Apple Blossom Time and what became the American base-

ball anthem, Take Me Out To The Ball Game. Kassner's intuitive knack of sensing a hit song spread across virtually all pop genres from rhythm & blues specialist Chuck Willis, whose I Feel So Bad was recorded by Elvis Presley, through the teeny pop Bobby's Girl, a British hit for Susan Maughan, and an in-strumental success such as Portrait Of My Love recorded

by Matt Monro. Kassner signed the Kinks to a publishing and manage-ment deal in 1964, resulting in a string of hits by Ray Davies, such as You Really Got Me, All Day And All Of The Night and A Well Respected Man. Kassner's canny awareness of trends and changes in the music business prompted him to found President Records in 1966. Singer-songwriters and bands who wrote their own

mentary adjunct of his publishing interests and the label scored success in its first year with a Top 20 entry, I Feel Love Comin' On written Peers, Anne Shelton, Mantoby Barry White and sung by Felice Taylor. President's multi-racial band the Equals that Anglo-American reper- — one of whom was a youthful Eddy Grant - topped the European charts with Baby Come Back, and Rick Wakeman's association with the Kassner group produced 30 albums and over 100 songs.

in 1991, Radio 2 broadcast The Edward Kassner Story chronicled his unique success. He leaves a wife, Eileen three sons, two daughters and seven grandchildren.

Moel Hunter

Edward Kassner, music pubisher, born February 28, 1920;

Birthdays

John Baker, chairman National Power, 59; King Bhumibol of Thailand, 69; Jose Carreras, operatic tenor, 50; Lord Chalfont, chairman, Radio Authority, 77; Lucie Clayton, founder of the model and secretarial agency, 68; Eddie (the Eagle) Edwards, ski jumper, 33; Tommy Graham, Labour MP, 53; Peter Grant, chairman. Sun Life Assurance Society, 67; Hanif Kureishi, nov elist, 42; Little Richard (Penniman), rock singer, 61 Lord Longford, writer and former Labour minister, 91; Terry Maher, writer and pub-lisher, 61; Sheridan Morley, broadcaster and critic, 55; Jer-emy Sandford, author, 62; Adam Thorpe, poet, 40.



Edward Kassner . . . Bill Haley launched his success

Death Notices

Memorial Services

Jackdaw



Eat Cake

EVERY year, just after Thanksgiving, writes Truman Capote in A Christ-mas Memory, his elderly cousin would wake up and officially announce, "It's fruitcake weather!" Out would come the fruitcake fund, a year's collection of dimes and nickels, and off the two friends would go to collect the ingredients: candied fruits - cherries, citron, ginger, canned pineapple, raisins — vanilla and other spices, butter and walnuts. They'd pay a visit to Mr HaHa Jones, the local bootlegger, for the all-important whiskey. Once the ingredi-

ents were gathered. Capote and his cousin would head home to the kitchen where a big, black stove glowed. "Eggbeaters whirl, spoons spin round in bowls of butter and ugar." Capote writes ... I feel like I'm right there with them, sharing their delight in the exotic, jewel-like fruits, the mysterious spices, the

In describing the smells, the excitement, and the atmosphere of love in the kitchen, Capote reveals — perhaps even more than be intended to - how deeply the innocent ritual touched him. These moments may well have been as important to him as any of the heady high points of his famous life. Why does Capote's story mean so much to me?... Maybe it's because this tale is so much about the sensual pleasures of food. and about the intimacy that

cooking encourages. Now I know that fruitcake is not everybody's cup of tea ... Russell Baker claims that his own distaste for it stems from "a Christmas dinner when, at the age of 15, I dropped a small piece of fruitcake and shattered every bone in my right foot." The American foodie mag Saveur (motto: "Sanour a World of Authentic Cuisine") on liverary seasonal pleasures.

Clive 'n 'Bert

TWO 20th-century philosophers whose names are insep arable, Ludwig Wittgenstein and Bertrand Russell, were such a great double act that there simply has to be a buddy movie sooner or later. At last, the material is all set to be licked into a script. Ray Monk has now matched his justly lauded biography of Wittgenstein with a fat and equally enthralling first volume wrapping up the earlier half of Russell's long life ---Bertrand Russell: The Spirit of Solitude 1872-1921 — and is sitting on the hottest Hollywood prospect since Paul Newman and Robert Redford signed on for Butch Cassidy

Every A-list male star will

want to play Wittgenstein — the philosopher who blew

away all the other philoso-phers, including Russell —

so, although Lyle Lovett looks the part and Arnie has the accent, Tom Cruise will probably get the job, armed with a Tatlin-tower lopsided bouffant coiffure personall teased out by the great José ("Mmmm! You look like beer

theenker now!").
Nobody bankable — not even Steve Martin, a philosophy wonk who can actually explicate Principia Mathema tica while wearing a plastic arrow through his head — wil want to play the physically unappealing Russell, so the way should be clear for the perfect choice: Gene Wilder. Fluctuating uncontrollably between idealism and disillusion, forever persuaded that sexual fulfillment is at hand in the form of a luscious girl in a red dress, Wilder's persona, like his appearance, exactly fits a part that should revive

The only strike against Wilder is that even he has a bit oo much gravitas for the role. On the evidence of Monk's book, Russell, for all his clipped speech and pipe-sucking air of cerebral precision

fourth Stooge. Monk does his best to lend Russell dignity and stature, but that's the way it comes out, like a fanfare

from a whoopee cushion.

It took Russell a long time to get here. While he was alive, he was a sage. Even in his last phase, when he recklessly allowed himself to be set up as the star turn in various World Peace tent shows that had lit-tle to do with any known world and nothing to do with neace, he was regarded as, at worst, a supermind whose bonnet had been unaccount-ably penetrated by fashion-able bees. In his early life, he was universally assumed to be a genius. For all most of us know, he was. Clive James for once actively earning the very large sum that we hope The New Yorker

Game Golf

pays him for a book review.

AT THE 1966 British Open at Muirfield Phil Rodgers taught me a way of escaping from what seemed like an im possible situation in the sand . when the ball is near the

that is too steep to permit a normal swing . . . stabilise yourself for a hard hit by wriggling your feet deep into the sand. Once you are secure, simply pick the club straight up by folding your arms exactly as you would chop an axe into a log lying on the ground. Then hit down hard with your right hand about two inches behind the

wall. Your objective is to chop out by burying the club



head in the sand behind it, so forget about a follow-through If Jack Nicklaus writes that this works (as he does in Golf Monthly), it works. You wish.

Second Heien

ACCORDING to Heinrich Schliemann's keenest detractors, his life was not merely stranger than fiction; it was fiction. But the facts accepted even by those who most strongly suspect his honesty make it an amazing story. Born in poverty in 1822, the son of a dissolute and lecherous Lutheran pastor in the eastern German town of Neu-bukow, he made himself immensely rich through the indigo trade in Russia, dealing in gold in California, and profiteering during the Cri-mean War. He was shipwrecked off the Dutch coast, lucky to escape with his life; he almost perished from star-vation in Panama

Even his method of courtfirst marriage, to a Russian, having failed, he resolved to find a second wife. A Greek would be best, he decided, and Edited by Vanessa Harlowe ship was exceptional. His

so he wrote to an archbishor of his acquaintance, asking him to look out for suitable candidates. Photographs should be sent, he said; as a good reader of faces, he was confident that he could judge a person's character from her picture. Having picked out a girl of 16, 30 years younger than himself, he went to Ath-ens to interview her. After putting the appropriate questions (he asked her when the Emperor Hadrian had visited Athens, and required her to recite some lines of Homer), he proposed, and (since he was very rich) was accepted. Nineteen days after their first meeting, they were married. Richard Jenkyns in the New York Review of Books on the life of that acclaimed graverobber who made off with the gold of Troy and claimed his most marvellous find was the very mask of Agamemnon.

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Finance Guardian

NatWest to shed 10,000 staff ● Union talks of jobless ghettos ● Ombudsman slates administration | Notebook

Uncaring banks under fire

Lenders 'turned 90s downturn into a slump and cost 500,000 jobs'

RITAIN'S banks and building societies after the build up of bad building societies added half a million to the nation's dole queues as a result of their draconian are sult of the sult of

HE Banking Ombudsman Laurence Shurman rebuked banks yesterday for taking too little care when closing branches and cutting jobs. He said that it had led to some "horrendous" cases of maladministration.

Mr Shurman's criticism NatWest Bank confirmed plans to shed 10,000 jobs and cut the number of processing centres from 150 to 60 by the end of the decade. It has already announced the closure of 350 high street branches.

crease in telephone com-plaints and inquiries to 22,793 this year. Mr Shurman said in his annual report that some of the worst cases appeared to stem from banks' attempts to achieve greater

The ombudsman singled out the case of a couple whose property was nearly repos-sessed after their bank failed to transfer details of their

tributed to the closure of smaller branches, to computand to other moves towards 'rationalisation'?' he said.

a result of their draconian lending policies in the

recession of the early 1990s, according to research released today, writes Larry Elliott.

The reluctance to extend

credit to hard-pressed indi-viduals and businesses cost the UK £15 billion in lost

output in 1991 and turned a

downturn in the economy

into a slump, the study

Without the tougher

Gripes about cash ma-

1980s borrowing binge, the economy would have contracted by 0.2 per cent in 1991 rather than the 2 per

Gary Young, senior economist at the National Insti-

tute for Economic and Social Research, said the

Bank of England was partly

to blame for the problem.

because it failed to spot just

how heavily exposed banks and building societies were

"The risks associated

cent actually recorded.

lion after finding in favour of 53 per cent of complainants. The highest payout was

the occasional general

warning by the Governor of the need to be careful in

1991 and 1992 the leading UK lending institutions

were forced to write off 2.5 per cent of their domestic loan book as businesses

and homeowners were un-able to repay the debts built

up in the late 1980s.
The scale of the losses

from £100.000 to £150.000 and for the code of banking practice to be strengthened. NatWest shrugged off the

According to the NIESR report, the upshot was that credit was reined in, lead-

property prices still

Mr Young said the prob-lem was exacerbated by sterling's membership of

the Exchange Rate Mecha-nism between 1990 and

1992, which hindered cuts

ing to a fall in cons

this area." spending and investment,
Mr Young said that in which in turn drove down

were told the move would "improve the quality of service".

"Perhaps it is inevitable that large organisations such as banks will sometimes be unduly bureaucratic. Can some blame, I wonder, be attributed to the closure of

reduction in branch offices from 2,100 to 1,750 by the end of 1998 reflected consumers' growing preference for tele-

But Bifu, the banking and insurance union, immediately urged NatWest to return to the drawing board" and accused the bank ployment ghettos" by reduc-ing the number of processing centres to just 60. Alan Ainsworth, assistant

secretary at Bifu, said: "Attempts at rationalisation have so far not brought the effi-ciencies that were expected. We are asking NatWest not to replace one set of inefficiencies with another.

lower at 695.50.

Tim Jones, managing direc-tor of UK retail banking ser-vices, said the intended phone banking and cash ma-chines. "Our restructuring

privatisation.

Conservative ministers would have us believe.

NatWest shares closed 2.5p

Paris hotel sold to prince

lan King

RANADA Group is to sell its George V hotel in Paris, one of the Exclusive hotels it acquired takeover of Forte, to Prince Arabia £104 million.

The deal, and terday, is the second in a lanned £1 billion sale Exclusive hotels. Hyde Park darin Oriental International for £86 million two veeks ago.Granada still has 15 Exclusives to sell.

The price of the 258-room George V, which opened in 1928, works out at just over £400,000 per room, com-pared with the £465,000 per room paid by Mandarin and the £565,000 per room paid by the Barclay brothers for the Ritz Hotel. the world's richest men, is also thought to be in talks with Lonrho about its lux-ury Princess hotels chain.



Blow for BAe but GEC may gain as Money markets French suspend Thomson sell-off to be opened up

Roger Cowe

HE future of Europe's defence industry was thrown up in the air French government suspended plans to privatise Thomson, the defence and electronics group.

The hiatus opens up the possibility that GEC might yet come out of the affair with a bigger involvement in the French defence business But it rebounded on British

e, which had been expected to benefit from the sale to its missile partner Lagardere. Separately, BAe agreed yesterday with Rheinmetall to buy STN, the defence technology unit of bankrupt German shipping group Bremer Vul-

Thomson would be sold to La-gardère for just one franc, rather than to GEC's main partner, Alcatel.

But yesterday the finance ministry announced that the sale was off. The decision followed a surprise veto from the privatisation commission, which must approve all state sales but was expected merely to rubber-stamp the deal. It objected to Lagardère's planned sale of Thomson's

loss-making multimedia business to the Korean electronics company Daewoo, Thomson has built up its consumer operations through a series of takeovers, including the purchase of the last Britishowned television manufacturer, Ferguson, from Thorn

Daewoo had sought to pla- | though the European Union is | Thomson.

The French government and cate the nationalistic objections of the proposed nounced in October that tions to the sale by promistroms on would be sold to Lading that it would keep the volved in the sale. The fitter of the proposed in the sale of the proposed nounced in October that the proposed in the sale. The fitter of the proposed nounced in the sale of the proposed nounced in the sale. The fitter of the proposed nounced in October that the proposed nounced in October the proposed nounced nounc Thomson headquarters in France, investing FF5 billion (£570 million) and adding

5,000 Jobs.

But public opinion, whipped up by the Socialist opposition, remained opposed to the deal, which would have given Daewoo the loss-making consumer business for iust one franc.

The privatisation commis-sion said it was also worried about France losing access to advanced technology, such as decoders and flat computer Officials at Daewoo said

they were "outraged" by the decision. The government insisted yesterday that the privatisa-tion will still go ahead, al-

original bidders were still in the frame. Analysts said yesterday that Lagardère was still the most likely buyer, if it can find an acceptable formula for hiving off Thomson's con-sumer operation. But Alcatel is still in with a chance because it has made it clear that

it would be prepared to keep

volved in the sale. The fi-nance ministry said both

the multimedia side. reform of the money mar-GEC is closely involved ket this century. with Alcatel through its Alsthom power joint ven-ture, which is negotiating to buy the French nuclear power company Framatome But, in addition, GEC has a satellite deal with Lagar dère's Matra as well as a

consistent with the direc-

ket operations are central to the conduct of monetary daily interventions that it sets the short term interest rates which in turn influence interest rates through-

tem on a daily basis at in-terest rates which it sets in of next year.

line with the monetary policy laid down by the Chancellor or, less often, mopping up surplus cash from the banks themselves.

Traditionally the Bank

has worked through the discount houses — small. highly specialist firms which have enjoyed an ex-clusive relationship with the Bank for more than a century — offering cash in exchange for a defined range of securities, such as Treasury bills and some local authority bonds.

Now the Bank plans to broaden its operations to in-clude the £15 billion-a-day gilt repo market where gov ernment bonds are swapp for cash with an agree that they will be repurchased at a given date.

Properly supervised banks, building societies and securities houses both from Britain and the European Economic Area - will be invited to take part directly in the money markets through the gilt

repo market.
The Bank's executive director, Ian Plenderleith, said: "We think the changes will foster the development of efficient and competitive money markets in London and that they will help to strengthen further London's pre-eminent interna-

tional position."
The Bank is looking for responses to its proposals by January 10 and hopes to have the new system in operation in the early month:

Water firms' logic is leaking



Edited by Mark Milner

lic sector concerns into world-beating companies is supposed to be a British local speciality. Indeed Ian Lang, the trade and industry secretary, is today hosting a conference to offer that expertise to other countries starting down the road to

Unfortunately for consumers, the benefits of this transformation are not always as real as the rhetorical zeal of

Water is certainly a case in point. The research published yesterday by the independent Centre for the Study of Regulated Industries shows that customers of the 10 English and Welsh regional water companies are paying on average 41.6 per cent more in real terms for water and sewerag than when the industry was privatised seven years ago The companies exacting hardly stoic about the amount

of money the industry regulator and Burope are forcing them to invest in environmental measures and infrathose same companies seem to have plenty of money to buy into non-core adventures such as overseas construction managed again this year to finance a dividend competition which has led to shareholder payouts increasing by around 14 per cent compared with

arguments of perfect-market-equals-perfect-competition merchants are inconvincing when applied to non-natural monopoly sec gas. When applied to a natural monopoly such as water these arguments appear even

However inadequate the regulatory regime — and it could be improved — no bet-ter mechanism is on offer through which consumers can be protected. We need more of it.

Darwin lives

ARWINISM is alive and well and living in Threadneedle Street. According to officials who yesterday unveiled the Bank of England's consultative paper on integrating the gilt repo market into the broader fold of sterling money mar-kets, the process of reform of the bond market might have started with a big bang a de-cade ago — but since then it has been evolution all the

well up to a point. It is hard to avoid the view that, though the Bank has often been pushing at an open door with some of its proposals, there has

been some hard driving too. The Bank argues that the result of this steady evolution (more money markets reform in a decade than in the previous hundred years) has been to put London at the leading edge of international develop-

and will matter more, if and when Europe gets a single currency. London has built up a top slot in the global foreign exchange market, though sterling is by no means the most heavily traded currency, and can reasonably expect to main-

tain its lead. But it will scarcely be able to compete in the market for euro-denominated products - not least against Frankfurt which will have the advantage of playing host to the European Central Bank — if its structures are either archaic, or unfamiliar to inter-

national players, or both. fore to be commended, though its success here should not be allowed to deflect scrutiny from another area, supervision, where it has done less well. Spare a thought too, for the discount houses who might now be pondering the Darwinian dictum on fitness

Daewoo derailed

HE French privatisation commission's decision to reject the Lagardere/ Daewoo takeover of defence and consumer electronics firms Thomson has Gallic charm, though free marketeers will be throwing their

hands up in horror. The commission, it appears, was prepared to sanction the defence side of the deal involving Thomson, Lagardère and, by extension, British Aerospace. But it jibbed at letting Daewoo take over the consumer business on the grounds that it did not have sufficiently strong commitments on keeping jobs and business in France.

It may be that Daewoo can pump up its offer to overcome the commission's reluctance, though it would be unfortunate if the South Korean company were to get the impres sion that France is playing the kind of game that once saw all imports of Japanese video recorders routed through an isolated customs post in Poitiers.

the extent to which at least some in the French establishment have failed to take on board what is happening in the defence industry, not just in France, nor even in Europe, but on a global basis.

The industry is merging and rationalising, on an awe-some scale in the US. Look no tin. Now Boeing and McDon-nell Douglas are edging closer, even though talk of a merger is described as "premature". Europe, by contrast, has talked much but done less. European Aerospace, be it plc, AG, or SA, still looks a long way off. That will con-tinue to be the case if important parts of the process can be derailed on unrelated — if domestically politically sensi-tive — grounds.

Controls to be tightened on London's alternative market

■HE Stock Exchange last night unveiled plans to turn the regulatory native investment Market, on which shares in nearly 250 companies are now traded — including demands that they issue a "wealth warning" to would-be investors.

growing criticism of madelate controls on companies listed on the secondary market, the capitalisation of which has soured to more than £5 billion since its launch in June last year.

The move comes amid

Among the reforms are measures intended to give far more advance warning of the intention to float, together with much more detailed information about those involved in the proposed listing.

 Requiring AIM candidates to put a prominent "wealth prospectus.

Cracking down on share-holders building up a sizeable stake by requiring the identi-

in the company.

Companies intending to go for a listing will now have to

give ten days' notice rather

than the current 72-hour qual-

ifying period. The Stock Ex-

change hopes that this will give prospective investors

more opportunity to study a prospective flotation. It will

also require full details about

financial advisers and details of directors with an interest

fication of any investor with a holding of more than 3 per cent in an AIM stock. ◆ A warning that the Exchange will act against any "breach of responsibility" by financial advisers involved in the AIM market.

TOURIST RATES -- BANK SELLS

Australia 1.99 Austria 17.49 Belgium 51.20 Canada 2.17

Germany 2,4875 Greece \$93.00 Hong Kong 12,40 India 58.97

italy 2,474 Maite 0.58 Neitherlands 2,7925 New Zealand 2,25 Narwsy 10,41 Portugal 252,00 Savil Arabia 6,13

Singapore 2.25 South Africa 7.45 Spain 209.00 Sweden 10.97

Delta set to buy rival to become top airline specialist McDonnell Doug- | between British Airways and | In a separate development

Keith Harper and Cella Weston

HE American aerospa industry appeared to be facing its biggest shakeup in decades last night as it emerged that Delta is poised to create the world's largest airline through buying rival US giant Continental Airlines.

News of the possible take-over came as aircraft-maker gearing up to bid for defence includes the planned tie-up Georgia.

las, which recently lost out on a £500 billion contract to be part of the consortium to build the next generation of US fighter aircraft.

Both developments are seen the civil and defence aerospace industries, in which the Americans are regrouping in response to rationalisation in Europe and the perceived threat of developing manufac-turers from the Pacific Rim. It

American Airlines, the two biggest transatlantic carriers. The two American airlines, third- and fifth-largest, which between them carry about one in four of all US airline by analysts as part of the con-tinuing global shake-out of in the preliminary stages of an agreement. Delta and Continental would have a stock market value of \$7.4 billion

would add Continental's hub

in Newark, New Jersey, to

Delta's main hub in Atlanta,

Ronald Woodard, Boeing's chairman, sald it was too early to conclude that co-operation with McDonnell Douglas on the building of Boeing wide-body 747 airliners would lead to a full-blown merger. "Let us first put our co-operation programme into action,' he said. Mr Woodard also warned

that the apparent recovery in the industry was not as rapid as some thought. Despite large new orders there was a need for caution, he said.

The changes will involve effectively opening the market to a range of domes tic and international finan-cial institutions, bringing London into line with other big financial centres. And as the Bank noted carefully: "The changes are

MARK MILNER

reports on moves

to bring City into

international line

yesterday moved to support London's posi-

tion as an international fi-

nancial centre when it un-

veiled plans for the biggest

tion and spirit of the proposals currently under discussion at the European Monetary Institute for future monetary operations in the euro, which are of relevance whether or not the UK participates in monetary union.' The Bank's money mar-

out the economy. Normally it worked through the Bank providing cash to the banking sys-

JAN 100 150

Bass hopes for 7,000 new jobs as **MMC looks** at takeover

ASS, the brewing and leisure group whose empire ranges from Holiday Inn hotels to Gala bingo clubs, expects to create about 7,000 jobs this year as part of a £670 million investment

But the company, which added 6,000 jobs to its UK workforce last year, making a total of around 77,000, said it would resist paying a mini-mum wage as promoted by

The chairman, Sir Ian Prosser, said the imposition of a minimum wage, which has been accepted by many service groups, could endan-ger the company's least prof-itable pubs. Bass could be forced to make some employ-ees redundant rather than

create new openings.
Sir Ian said the jobs to be created in 1997 would be the equivalent of full-time vacancies. Most will be in the Bass Taverns division, where the provision of food, and longer opening hours, had increased Holiday Inns business, staff demand. About 1,500 branded drinks and Bass Tavwould occur in the leisure

spend about £300 million on its pubs and eateries includ-ing O'Neils, All Bar One and Harvesters in an attempt to take advantage of buoyant consumer spending over the

Although the rise in em-ployee numbers is increasing verheads for Bass, Sir Ian said that converting the group's large roadside pubs into, for example, a Harvester format was doubling sales.

Details of the job creation plan emerged as Bass unveiled a 12 per cent rise in profits to £671 million, helped by strong sales of its Caffrey's cream ale and its top selling alcopop, Hoopers Hooch. Shares sagged by 1p to 810p in a falling market, even though profits were in line with expectations and Bass suggested

outlook was bullish.

reflected in part, a growing conviction that Bass' £200 million acquisition of Carlsberg-Tetley will be de-railed for at least six months by a Monopolies and Mergers

Commission inquiry.
Sir Ian claimed the acquisition would improve competi-tion in the brewing business and denied it would give Bass certain regional monopolies, such as the Midlands.

But it is understood that

the Office of Fair Trading has recommended a full inspec-tion by the MMC. The Depart-ment of Trade and Industry is within the next fortnight.

Bass has, however, already established teams of staff t look at where savings, mainly from job cuts, can be achieved when the brewing business, formerly part-owned by Allied Domecq, is integrated.
Sir Ian declined to comment on the outcome and said

he had no idea of the timing of a government decision. He said Bass is keen for the earliest possible resolution. The company's results showed a strong growth in its erns although soft drinks

The company plans to the betting businesses - Gala bingo and Coral - suffered. Car companies Rover and Honda, and food processing company Moy Park, announced the creation of several hundred jobs yesterday in England and Northern Ireland, writes Chris Barrie. Rover, which is stepping up

the pace of new car develop-ment, is looking for 100 specialist engineers to staff its Gaydon engineering cen-tre in Warwickshire. Honda, aiming at output of 150,000 cars by late 1998, is recruiting 250 shopfloor "associates" at its Swindon manufacturing

plant.

Moy Park, part of US group
is investing OSI Industries, is investing £31.5 million over four years in Northern Ireland. About £10 million will be spent on a food processing plant at Dunutlook was bullish. gannon in County Tyrone,
The investor uncertainty creating 350 jobs.



Barry Gamble, chairman and chief executive of woodland manager Fountain Forestry, gets assistance in his preparations for the company's AIM market debut PHOTOGRAPH: MAR

Williams hunts for acquisitions after £360m sale

OUTLOOK/ Management buy-out of Rawlplug, Valor and Aqualisa sharpens focus on core areas, writes IAN KING

fire protection group whose brands include Yale Locks and Polycell, said yesterday it was hunting for acquisitions and was prepared to splash out up to £500 million in the

This emerged as Williams announced the sale, for £360 million, of 15 of its UK building products busines The businesses being sold

include some of the bestknown names in home prod-ucts, including Rawlplug, gas fires — Swish curtain shower supplier. The sale marks the culmi-

nation of a period in which

TLLIAMS Holdings, on three defined areas, the home improvement, security and an attempt to shake off its image as a lumbering 1980sstyle conglomerate.

Backed by venture capital-

ists Candover and Electra, the management buy-out team is led by former Williams director Mike Davies, and is stumping up what it de-scribed as a "substantial amount" of its own money in

Both Williams and the team said yesterday that the new company, Newmond, which now employs 3,500 and made pre-tax profits of £32.1 million last year, would eventually be floated on the stock market. The pair also emphasised that tracks. Dreamland electric Newmond, which was blankets and Aqualisa, the apparently not international enough for Williams, is not

simply being dumped Indeed, Williams will be Williams has made rigorous retaining a 26 per cent hold-efforts to focus its businesses ing in Newmond, as it has

done when previously selling | other businesses to manage-ment teams, like the engineering group Cortworth, in flavour. which it still holds a 20 per Over cent stake.
Following the sale, which

gives it a one-off gain of Europe and the rest of the £246 million, Williams has world accounting for 30 per wiped out its remaining bor-

More importantly, the com-pany now has the financial

'We have not de-geared our balance

ment free from the need to make further disposals, will have more time to hunt down appropriate acquisition

In fact, following the disposal, Williams already has a predominantly international — are expected to expand rap-Over half of all sales are

now generated in the United States, with continental cent, while the UK chips in a mere 13 per cent.

However, despite this sales mix, there are a number of

sheet just to sit on cash in the bank'

muscle to expand its existing | regions where Sir Nigel

As Sir Nigel Rudd, chair-man of Williams, put it "We have not de-geared our balance sheet just to sit on cash in the hank. We won't be rushed into buying things, but we are looking to strengthen and develop our international positions."

rightly feels Williams should be more strongly represented. These include Latin America, where the company opened its first manufacturing plant

earlier this year, and the Far

At the same time, the number of business areas covered by Williams has narrowed,

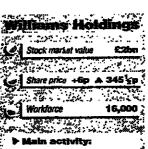
idly during the next few years, as living standards climb across much of the world, while the activities themselves have plenty of overlap. But, while Williams is now

worlds apart from Tomkins the conglomerate with which it used to be compared, Sir Nigel says he cannot be bothered to grumble about the conglomerate label. As the shares rose 5p to 344%p, in response to yesterday's deal, neither could his City fan club.

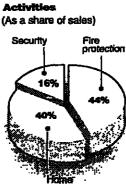
Williams claims to have kicked its old habit of reshuffling assets regularly. But by selling businesses at a steady profit, as he did yesterday, and recycling the proceeds in fast-growing, higher margin activities, as he promises to do, Sir Nigel is still sticking to the old routine.

However, if he can combine leaving the company with a portfolio that is no longer a sprawling mess.

The three areas on which Williams will be concentrations at 345%p.



Fire protection, security and home improvement products Activities



Carlton looks to | Active calls truce pay-TV for profit in Greycoat battle

Lisa Buckingham

ICHAEL Green's Carlton Communications media group said yesterday that it planned to expand its pay-TV interests with potential moves into cable, satellite and digital The group also hinted that more takeovers could follow

its dramatic last minute inter-vention to snap up West-country TV to make Carlton the first ITV company to control three licences.
It is understood that Carlton will separate out the broadcast regions it controls - Carlton, Central and now

Westcountry — in order to renegotiate the annual

amount it pays to the govern-ment in return for its broadcast licence. The group hopes to extend

the Independent Television Commission in the £43 million fees paid by its London

Mr Green, whose group un-

veiled a 20 per cent profits in-

crease to £295.1 million in the year to September, said that although "many of the most tangible opportunities lie within our existing business es" Carlton would continue to look at takeover opportunities. A spokesman said the West-country bid — which hoisted the station out of the clutches of rival United News showed Cariton could act quickly. He added that the group was more interested in profits than increasing its size. Carlton already accounts for about 34 per cent of ITV's revenues and the company

The group produced a 33 per

lan King

HE predatory UK Active Value Fund, run by South Africans Brian Mverson and Julian Treger, leclared a truce last night in its battle with Greycoat, the property company in which it is the biggest shareholder. UK Active, which had tabled a break-up resolution

to be discussed at an extraor dinary meeting later today, sald that, after talks with Greycoat, it would now be abstaining at the meeting.
The fund said it was satisfied with the future strategy the Greycoat board had de cided to pursue, singling out Monday's decision to sell office property at London's Embankment Place, which raised operating profits from its television division by 5 per the fund said would release some £100 million to be cent to £129.4 million. returned to shareholder

the length of Central's £2,000 cent increase in the profits of a year regime while securing a substantial reduction from provides broadcast services. cent increase in the profits of its products division which Greycoat, probably involving a sale of the group's other main London property at 123 Buckingham Palace Road.

Mr Myerson denied sugges-tions he had climbed down ahead of a likely defeat at today's meeting: "They're go-ing to sell up to 80 per cent of money to shareholders, what we wanted them to do."

Even though welcoming the news, Greycoat said there were still a number of "inac-curacles" in UK Active's comments, notably the claim that Embankment Place would release over £100 million to shareholders. Chairman regret the unnecessary diversion and cost over the last two months but are pleased that UK Active has realised the hortcomings of its proposal." Moorfield Estates, the prop-

erty group which has tabled UK Active also said it ex-pected to see further progress says it is pressing ahead with towards "unlocking value" at its plans.

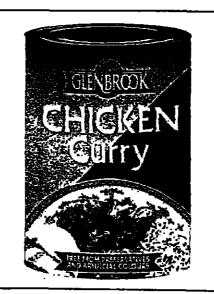
CUSTOMER CARE ANNOUNCEMENT

GLENBROOK FOODS LIMITED

RECALL OF CHICKEN CURRY

We have detected that in a very limited number of instances, pieces of glass visible to the human eye may have entered some tinned product. This affects the following product only:

> **GLENBROOK CHICKEN CURRY in 368g tins** batch codes 6240 and 6241 only These batch codes are located on the lids of tins as shown:





We have already arranged withdrawal from stores but we are concerned that consumers may still have tins with these codes at home. If this is the case, please do not consume the product, but return the tin(s) to the stores at which you purchased for a full refund.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

We stress that only the above codes need be returned and that no other Glenbrook Foods products are affected.

Any queries in relation to this notice should be directed to our freephone information line on:

0800 24 24 28

This will be open from 8am until 8pm from 5th December 1996 onwards

Underside

Dan Atkinson

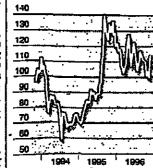
tured in the Daily Tele-graph's Fantasy Boardroom game (buy real directors, with cost-based salaries, then tot up reallife share performances) is livid with the way its chief's salary was reported in the game. Ho hum, another complaint about exaggerated pay packets?
Nope: the published pay
ought to have been higher.
to the tune of 200 big ones.

AUGH? You never will. That Japester Laurence Shurman, the banking ombudsman, lurches into 'comedy'' on page 21 of his annual report. That gag in full: "How do you stop a herd of elephants from charging? Take away their credit cards."

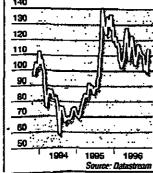
3.14 (that's Pi for Pious-ness) update. Kicking off with solicitors Eversheds,

Must've been another Tory

Celsis International



NEW twist in the longest-running show of them before industrial tribunals ... on to the Tory
Party, an impoverished but worthy outfit, according to a letter from Chairman Mapleading thus for overdoing the low-alcohol punch may land them before industrial triworthy outhit, according to a letter from Chairman Ma-whinney MD, pleading thus for £20; "Unlike Labour who can expect heavy sup-port from the trade unions, we have to rely on dona-tions from individuals." Must've been another Tory.



whose legal SOS on works
Christmas parties states:
"managers have a duty to
ensure parties do not get
out of hand", and warns
bosses that sacking people
for overdoing the low-Safety Executive for firms to develop "an alcohol policy" ... finally, our own petit 3.14: did the UK 200 group of accountants specialising in small-ish businesses, have to pick the East India Club for tomorrow's tax-panel launch? Our female spies tell us trousers and mini-skirts are verboten at the St James's Square mauso-leum. UK 200BC perhaps.

*REASURY Tales (1): Huge crowds mustered in cramped, stuffy Committee Room 15 on Tuesday to hang on every word of senior mandarins as they faced a post-Budget grilling by MPs. Close in-spection identified most of the juniors out of the building, and they had taken refuge in parliament. "It beats standing in the park in the pouring rain," said an insider. Just.

REASURY Tales (2) Satsuma-in-Chief Sir Terence Burns engaged in animated discussion with an LSE academic at a recent party, waxing lyrical about Gayle, Earle, Campbell and Walker. Dis-tinguished economists with new theories on monetary control? Try two Wimble-don midfielders followed by two Spurs defenders, all members of TB's fantasy-footy team. He should take nothing for granted: Earle scored on Saturday as Wimbledon extended their unbeaten run to 17 games, but Walker let in a soft goal on Monday as Spurs lost 2-0 at home to Liverpool.

ND a competition for A ND a competition for Christmas: 26.4 fluid counces of finest red juice for the best follow-on to deputy Bank governor Howard Davies's references spection identified most of to a regulatory set-up, vari-the throng as Treasury ously, as Twin Peaks and underlings. A touching Peak Practice. TV titles, the big brass? No, no. That Treasury fire had turfed the juniors out of the best? for rumoured changes in US interest rates, Open All Hours for the global mar-ket, Casualty for general UK economic management.

Agassi gets the money and runs

OR the second time in two weeks yesterday Germany witnessed the unedifying sight of Andre Agassi taking the Andre Agassi taking the money and rumning; well, stumbling anyway. The American had been thrashed at the ATP Finals by Pete Sampras having barely lifted a tennis elbow, and here in the first round of the Grand Slam Cup he was dispatched by Australia's Mark Woodforde 6-3, 6-4 after another pitiful display.

The only mercy is that Agassi will not now be seen again until well into the new year, for he has decided

year, for he has decided against playing in the Australian Open next January.

Lucky Australia. The quicker he marries Brooke Shields, or does whatever else he needs to sort him-self out, the better for every-one, because he has long since stopped pulling the wool over anybody's eyes. Currently he is simply not trying and is thus bringing both himself and his sport into disrepute.

One half expected the announcer in the Olympiahalle to say that Mr Agassi had won the toss and elected to tank. The crowd was remarkably tolerant but the whistles began in the second set, when he dropped his serve, and rang out loud and clear at the end. This was Hanover with Christmas bells on.

Munich's Christmas markets are in full Bavarian swing and the tennis hall lights. But the season's spirit

body expects the tennis to be i marvellous at this time of year but there is no excuse for the third-rate.

Richard Krajicek's performance on the opening day was every bit as disgraceful as Agassi's spineless effort, rendering the word tourna-ment a misnomer.

It is just about possible to sympathise with Agassi and his obvious weariness of tennis. There is simply too much and a great deal of it is indifferent, but Agassi has performed wretchedly nearly all year desnite winning the year, despite winning the Olympic title, with notably dismal displays at Roland Garros and Wimbledon.

The American has always been an enigmatic player. "You know I seem to thrive on digging in a bit of a hole and then getting excited to come out of it again." To this end he intends taking at least a six-week break in an at-tempt to remotivate and rejuvenate himself.
Tim Henman needs no mo-

tivating. By the end of today he will be richer by nearly \$450.000 (£270,000) if he de-feats Wimbledon's finalist MaliVai Washington to reach Saturday's semi-finals.

The two met on grass in Nottingham just before Wimbledon this year, with Hen-man winning 6-3, 7-5. Neither could have dreamed what was to happen some two weeks later: Henman reaching the Wimbledon quarter-finals and Washington stepping on to Centre Court on the last Sunday to face Krajicek for a place in tennis history. Washington remains rela-



What a racket . . . Agassi, thrashed in last week's ATP Finals, gives another pitiful display

I think a few more people ton again and then there is the know me. I get a little more mouthwatering prospect of the task, although clearly he far mall; a few weird phone calls when I'm at the hotel. A little more money, Other than his quarter-final. Hasek, like Henman, is that the three is the man whose mind was not on the task, although clearly he had a much better excuse too young yet to be thinking of superannuation himself. But it would be good to see little more money. Other than that it's the same."

Nor does Henman get pub-licly excited about his success, although unlike Agassi there is no doubt he is thrilled to be here. David Felgate, his coach tively matter-of-fact. "I'm still believes Henman has a good brated their Davis Cup suchas so far been missing. No- the same person I always was. chance of defeating Washing- cess. Pioline played like a

The German plays Switzer-land's Jakob Hlasek, who yesterday defeated Cedric Pioline of France who had just returned from Paris where tennis. This victory will top in Brno yesterday.

here courtesy of other players dropping out before the tournament began, notably the forced Monica Seles to retire world's No. 1 and No. 2 Pete Sampras and Michael Chang against Katerina Habsudova Indeed last month Hissek an-nounced his retirement from Banka Open exhibition event

Racing

Dunwoody to ride Teinein at Sandown

Chris Hawkins

ONY McCOY has been replaced by Richard Dunwoody on Teinein, the 7-2 ante-post favourite, for the William Hill Handicap Hurdle at Sandown on Saturday. Temein, trained by Tim

Forster, is attempting a hat-trick but has risen 16lb in the weights since the beginning of the season and has 11st 61b in this £50,000 added contest. McCoy goes to Chepstow in-stead principally to partner Belmont King for Paul Ni-cholls in the Rehearsal Chase, the race in which last sea-

race h.

An's top novice has been off the course for two seasons and must have soft ground but conditions are coming right for him now and the big target for this eight-year-old is the Coral Welsh National.

Nicholls thinks a lot of Belmont King and, with only 10st the gelding is not over in the Chepstow "ecember 27 for "octe him "ecember 27 for "ote him the Chepstow was to be retired to the paddocks but she has been brought back with the Chelman Gold Cup as her main "seem to be for the paddocks but she has been brought back with the Chelman Gold Cup as her main "seem to be for the paddocks but she has been brought back with the Chelman Gold Cup as her main "seem to be for the paddocks but she has been brought back with the Chelman Gold Cup as her main "seem to be for the paddocks but she has been brought back with the Chelman Gold Cup as her main "seem to be for the paddocks but she has been brought back with the Chelman Gold Cup as her main "seem to be for the paddocks but she has been brought back with the Chelman Gold Cup as her main "seem to be for the paddocks but she has been brought back with the Chelman Gold Cup as her main "seem to be for the paddocks but she has been brought back with the Chelman Gold Cup as her main "seem to be for the paddocks but she has been brought back with the Chelman Gold Cup as her main "seem to be for the paddocks but she has been brought back with the Chelman Gold Cup as her main "seem to be for the paddocks but she has been brought back with the Chelman Gold Cup as her main "seem to be for the paddocks but she has been brought back with the Chelman Gold Cup as her main "seem to be for the paddocks but she has been brought back with the Chelman Gold Cup as her main "seem to be for the paddocks but she has been brought back with the Chelman Gold Cup as her main "seem to be for the paddocks but she has been been brought back with the Chelman Gold Cup as her main "seem to be for the paddocks but she has been been brought back with the Chelman Gold Cup as her main "seem to be

heads the market at 4-1 fol-lowed by Billygoat Gruff at 7-1 and Lo Stregone at tens. Nicholls, understandably, looks a lot bulkier now than in his riding days (he won the Hennessy twice with his two rides in the race) and is very much the coming man in the training game. He saddled a very nice chas-

"He's been working very well at home and I told Tony (McCoy) he was a certainty if he stood up." said Nicholls. "He stays all day and I think the four miles National Hunt Chase at the Festival would suit him, but hopefully 11 be able to find another easy race. able to find another easy race or two before that."

Flaked Oats was bred by his owner Eddie Swaffield who remembered that the dam, Polly Toddle, was beaten here in a selling hurdle 20 years

ago.
Josh Gifford was in a jovial
mood after saddling Duke of
Aprolon to win the Norfolk
Novice Handicap Chase and
had encouraging news of
stable stars Brief Gale and
Bradbury Star, neither of
whom have the best of foreless.

ing high but at her best this a very smart staying mare and it will be remembered that she won the Sun Alliance Al-liance Chase two seasons ago.

There is a good card at Leicester this afternoon when there will be plenty of interest in the former high class Flat ing recruit in Flaked Oats to win first time out in the Mundbam Novice Chase at Fontwell yesterday and has Cheltenham hopes of this for- is now with David Nichol-

Lingfield all-weather programme

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Lane	DEQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS LIMITED STAKES 2m 12,812 ###################################	<u></u>
TILE.	D EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS LIMITED STAKES 2m 52,612 ###################################	<u></u>

ONL DECEMBER (271) A MACHE 2-0-0-0 DECEMBER ADAPT MICH (823) A Morre 5-6-4 DECEMBER ADAPT MICH (823) A Morre 5-6-4 DECEMBER STATION (91) S Dow 3-6-0 DECEMBER STATION (80) S DOW ... 9 Facilizaer (5) 1% ... A Daily (5) 3 ... 5 Whiterarth 2 ... 5 Sandars 5 and, 8-1 Labudd, 10-1 12 maners Windsor runners and riders

2.30 Zere 3.00 Merry Panto

, ii iiyesa , iii; ii Tir

2.1	O nom	IOT JERSEY COMDITIONS STAKES (DW Z) 1m C3,046	-
123456789	105300 40400-2 025025 000503 230038 125002 005000	BLUR FLYBR (28) (CD) R Ingress 3-9-7 BAROSSA WALLEY (20) P Bulse 5-8-12 GENATIST (28) (C) (D) (By Miss Gay Kalberry 5-9-12 KOMODO (23) J Long 4-8-12 BROWN (28) (D) D Morris 5-6-12 BROWN (46) (D) B L Moors 4-8-12 GOOL PRIES (16) (CD) 8 Woods 3-6-11 FEETSE (19) K M Ingress Paris 5-8-7	
PF		is Queen Of All Mirals 8, Hight Wink 7, Greatest \$	

2.40	82UT	TY PHIAMCIAL COLLECTIONS HAIDEN STAKES	EYO BI 63,319
1		CHURCHILL'S SHADOW & Prests 8-0	D R McCabe 11
2	0056	EMAR AUGANGEMENT (27) C British: 9-0	N Roberts 1
3		PORMEDABLE SPIRIT (111) A Heaton-Ellis 9-6	
4	34	MCATME (119) (NF) C Jesus 9-4	C inter 6
5		MASTER BORSY R Boss 9-0	
ā	06	\$9,434 DELICHT (27) B HEE 9-0	J D Scalii: (3) 2
7	592	UKSA MAJOR (36) P Kallendy 9-0	II Wigham 12
Ā	00	AQUATIC QUEEN (27) R Where 8-8	
ō	220520	EKATEMINI PANETSI (13) WTurner 8-9	T Speake 8x
10		PORROUTTYES TIMES (82) T Jenes 8-9	
11	0	SRE'S SLECTISC (21) J Bridger 8-9	\$ Sanders 2
12	00	TREIVOR MITCHELL (22) J Bridger 8-8	Dane O'Nell 5
TOP FOR	DI TIPS	Ursa Major 9, Insethes 7, Share Dolight 6	

1	IO BUT	TY PHANCIAL COLLECTIONS BANDICAP (DI- Z) Of C2,238	
1	400060	DANCING JACK (153) (C) J 8-ldgs: 3-8-11	Dane O'Nell 3
2		BE SATISFIED (23) A Moore 3-0-4	
3		SAMSOLOM (20) (CD) P Howing 8-9-4	
•		COLSTON-C (38) (D) P Evans 4-9-2	
Š		RAINTY DAY SONG (16) Lord Huntington 3-8-1	
8		MYSTERY MATTHIAS (21) Mes 9 Senten 3-5-12	
7		PRESS AGAIN (BS) P Hayward 4-8-12	
Ë		DASK MENACE (21) (D) E Wrester 4-8-11	
6		MISS PICKPOCKET (24) (C) (EF) Miss Gay Kallenay 3-8-10	
•	000500	KALBERT (10) P Burgoyne 7-8-8	P MeCubo (3) 2★
•	054004	TACHYCARDIA (20) (D) R O'Sullivan 4-8-8	S Sanders 12
2		SHEEMOOD (58) K Ivory 3-8-7	
2		SOUTHERN ROLE (10) (D) Miss M Rowland 9-8-0	
_			
-	CHE THE	Tackycardin 8, Miss Finkpockst 7, Danning Jack 6	

3.4	O THIRTY MINE STEPS ANATHUR RIDERS' HANDICAP 140 4	12,222
1	31()(56 PELIAL (16) 8 Meetin 3-11-7	Miss J Allect 9
Z		(7) 5
4	000850 NO PATTERN (27) (C) G L Noore 4-11-1	K Gobie 8+ Rs \$ Dwyer (7) 4+
Ė	\$514a) QENERAL HAVEN (46) (C) T Haughton 3-10-10	Krs J Naughton (4) 3
7	140216 DON'T DROP SOLESS (28) (CD) D Thom 7-9-0	Misp J Feliden 6★ Misp J Moore (4) 7
	0-50001 PHANAN (96) (C) (D) R Peacock 10-0-0	Ers C Pessook (7) 1
OP P	ORE TIPE Don't Drep Bombs 8, Explosive Power 7, No Pattern	6

Leicester card with guide to the form

2.20 Shining Light 2.50 Glowing Path

1	FAR DAWN (19) (D) Mrs A Perrett 11-5	C Electric
3134	SQUEER'S OCCASION (12) (D) R Aleborst 11-6	R Dunwoody
	ALEABA J Banks 10-12	وعددها بالسي
	BARANOV D Murray South 10-12	D Callegher
29	BRIGHT ECLIPSE (6) Mas K Whitehoute 10-12	T Jeeks 🖈
PO	CASHAPLENTY (50) N Literation 10-12	
F	COME ON M (16) R Distin 19-12	مطحطا لا
	FOREST BOY J Booley 10-12	M Booley
	FRISH KINSMAN (16) G Yardey 10-12	A Thornton
-	LORD HAASHIM T BH 10-12	T Bloy
	RED TEL AFFAIR J Bradley 10-12	TJ Blancher
	SYAR BLAKENEY (29) G Bernet 10-12	R Pleasant
•	TORY BROWN D Nichelson 10-12	A Maraka
m	STANOORA (17) Mrs N Macaulay 10-7	X Bushand (i
_	SPIRAL FLYER M Ligher 10-7	V McCorley

FORM GITTON - FAR DAWNE Led to 4th, led 3 out, beat Sterling Fellow 4 (Mindsor 2m nev hall, Gd).

-yu	elithir Smith artical				
2	.50 XHIGHTON HOVICE HURDLE 2 03,194				
01	50- ANOTHER PEOLE (735) B Paerce 5-10-12				
02	3- BANNY FILL LAD (615) C Morack 6-10-12	R Karamach			
03	BEGGER'S OPERA Par Mitchell 4-10-12	T Kest			
04	53 FASTRE GOLD (16) M Usher 4-10-12				
05		D Gellenber			
06	06605-0 KUNIARI KING (19) A Currol 6-10-12	il Grando			
07	LEADOIG SPORT C Wall 4-10-12	P Mide			
8	491/R2- LEGEBLE (275) \$ Meller 8-10-12	ii iilaan			
09	006 NAFLEZAL (38) K Bridgester 4-10-12	Y Stattery			
10	NO MATTER R Rows 5-10-12	D O'SulTrian			
11	RED ADMIRAL C Marray 5-10-12	K Ganle (3)			
12	RED PHANTON 5 Mellor 4-10-12				
13	月日第四 R Akeburg 7-70-12	R Deservedy			
14	D ROYRACE (29) W Bristourne 4-10-12				
15	30 SAMET (10) J Mailles 8-10-12				
16	SAMEARTENO D Nicholson 4-10-12	A Magaire			

Betting: 4-5 Sammering, 6-1 Leading Spirit, 7-1 Reimsi, 8-1 Legible, 10-1 Suprema Genotin, 12-1 Rei 18 research

	w hull, Gd-St).	Tara da al da desento Caracterio (Avia
1.2	O SARKSY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE 2m 4f 110yds C2	.285
81	P45-651 MR FLUTTS (9) (7th eat) (D) J Tack 10-11-11	#GHeM
02	FIRST-PE ASTRAL HIVASION (12) G McCourt 5-71-10	R Habsos (7) *
63	5-0P051 SIR PAGEANT (14) (D) K Bridgester 7-11-5	
04	800645- VISCOUNT TOTALY (202) C Jackson 11-11-7	O Bustows (7)
ŌΕ	75/-5803 SEAMC SERVIC (23) J Seriem 9-11-4	
06	3/4-0550 SAYBORE (23) W Cley 10-11-3	
07	4-P5440 ITS GRAND (8) (D) J Bradley 7-11-3	
80	4539-25 ALICES METROR (16) (89) K Blahop 7-11-2	DOGETFUL
09	203P-33 KATEALLOU (9) K Wingrove 7-17-0	
10		Btr A Coo (7)
11	P/54/3F- PERSIAN BUID (366) J Bosley 8-10-10	M Booky `
12	0-00346 CATWALKER (19) H Webb 5-10-4	Soobie littcheff (5)
13	0-60 JEAN DE PLORETTE (50) R Soicer 5-10-3	R Securio
14	450643 SCALP TEM (16) Dr P Pritchard 8-10-0	Dr P Pritchard
15	00P- COTTAGE JOILER (211) W Bethel (-10-0)	
15	/USPPS/- ESCADARO (566) Mrs V Ward 7-10-0	★ R Kavanagh السدسدية
17	/OPCI-FU SCGEPION BAY (9) D firench Carls 8-10-0	2000 (3)

-					
1.2	50 JOHN	O'GAURT NAIDEN CHA	SE 3m t3,366		
101	DOMESTIC TO SERVICE TO	DESPERATE DAYS (266	3 F Kirtov 7-31-6		/ Desta
182	4-90	TOCH OTSHAN ROLET	(193 P Dalton 7-11-6		Bw
103	000/70-5	MASTER HOPE (19) D N	Choison 7-11-6		وطعوبكا
IQ4	0-2	RAMSTOWK LAD (17) K	Bailey 7-11-6		Thornton
106	P050-U2	BOYAL RAND (49) R AT	neon 6-11-6		r R Armson
106	33F-P80	SPEANNEAD AGAIN (12	C) K Bristowater 7-11-0		Hassey (3)
107		THE MARMALADE CAT	Mrs D Heine 7-11-8		R Kanasadh
108	20/575_0	THE SHY PADES (14) M	rs. J Pitman 7-11-6		- Earston
109	4P0P-46	PERBANT COTTAGE (25	Ba Mines K Wibitebourne 8	-11-1T	Janks &
110	B	SHOWDON LILY (15) PY	Nebber 5-11-0		Hustman (3)
		Assessment Land 8, The S			
		•		•	
	15LA Th	Shu Barba, 1.4 Bernetra-	n I avi 71 Massaw Home	I cole German M	well-19cm

ROYAL MARDI Chased whomer to 4 out, left poor 2nd 3 out, 2nd of 4, distance behind Coolinen He (Taunion 2m 110yds nov ch, Fm). SPEASHEAD AGAINA Led until three out, weekened approaching next, 6th of 13, 371 behind Seimon Breez

2.2	O SILVER BELL HANDKAP CHASE 2m 47 110yda 24,844
501	121-422 PRVILEIGH BURLDS (13) (D) Mass L Passell 9-12-0 A Thorston
502	15-25UP CONT I DESTRUVAL (19) (D) G Baiding 6-11-11
503	223-122 PHILLIP'S WOODY (18) (D) N Handerson 6-11-5
504	13215-1 SHOWING LIGHT (19) (D) D Metholson 7-10-10
60E	(PLF/)- YBOMAN WARRIOR (400) R Rows 9-10-5
506	2725-1 SARTURRUS (180) (C) T Thorson Jones 10-10-5
102	Right TiPS: Shipsing Light 40, Phillipte Woody 8
	7-4 Staining Light, 3-1 Philip's Woody, 9-2 Fleeleigh Builds, 6-1 Sartorius, 8-1 Yaomen V

Paradiana are the pick, Gdj. SARTORINES Lad to 2nd, led 7m, held on well, best Polden Pride 9 (Horcester 2m & 110yde bap at, gdj. Verynsaar Warrende: Led to 14th, 3nd of 7, 151 behind Silps Valu (Kempton 3m hap co, Gd-Fm).

5	O WALL	THAN CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP IN	RDLE 2m C2,410
•	040-121	MAZZINI (26) (D) R Rows 5-11-10	A Gently (5)
2	0510 -	EURO SINGER (219) (D) ? Wabber 4-11-8	E therboad
8		SHEPHERIOS (EEST (204) (D) \$ Mellor 4-11-5	
		CLOWING PATH (16) (CD) R Hodges 8-10-11 .	
5		L'EQUIPE (19) C Maon 8-10-11	
3		FERMAN COURT (20) Miss. J Bower 5-10-6	
7	12347-3	KENTAYI (6) (D) T Donnelly 6-10-6	D Perher

Settings 6-6 Mazzini, 5-1 Euro Singer, Glowing Path, 6-1 Shepherds Rest, 8-1 L'equipe, Klatevi, 10-1 Fenian Court.

PORM (AUTOE - MAZZENIE Made all. best Next Feat 5: (Wincapton 2m noy hull. Gd

Gd).				
20	100	NRSKS MOVICE HURDLE (Div 2) SYO 2::: E2,373		
1	10	SHEATH KEFAAH (82) (T) (BF) J Jenkins 11-5	Q Bradley *	
2	u	AAVASAKSA (19) A Newcomba 18-12	A Therates	
3	00	CHILLINGTON (33) W Brisbourne 10-12	C Llowellys	
£	4	CERCUS STAR (41) (BF) D Michalson 10-12		
5		DARK AGE R Abshorst 10-12	R Democrity	
6	0	TREPERIODIC DANICES (19) K Bridgwater 10-12	Y Stattery	
7		MEDUNA MICURIA C Wall 10-12		
8		PALAMON J Wohe 10-12	T J Horoky	
	60	SEVEN CROWNS (41) C Pophum 10-12		
9		SOLDER MAK (19) A High 10-12		
1	6	WORTH THE BILL (15) F Jordan 10-12		
2		APARTMENTS ABROAD K McAulife 10-7	<u>ايطانت (ا</u>	
3		LOCK DANCER Mrs N Macaulty 10-7	? itires	•
4		RAW DEAL G Barnetl 10-7		

TOP FORM TH'S: Chous Star 9, Soldier Mak 7, Sheath Kafesh 8 PORME GUADA - CHACUS STAR: Led will ster first flight, every cherce from three out, one pace run-in, 4th of 15, 51 behind Kerzeri (Hesbury 2m 110yds nov hol. Gd). SOLDERN MARK Tracked leaders, every chance 2 out, one pace run-in, 3rd of 16, 41 behind Fijon chursingdo an 110yds nov hol. Gd) BUPERMINISCO DANGERIN Hemperod Arst, missake second, alverys behind, 11th of 19, 201 behind Fer Dawn

 Blinkered for the first time — LEICESTER: 12.20 Bright Eclipse; 1.50 Pennant Cottage, Spearhead Again; 2.50 L'Equipe. LINGFIELD: 12.10 Henry The Fifth; 1.40 Sam

Rockett, WINDSOR: 12.30 Murphy's Run; 1.30 Dukes Meadow, Highland Jack; 2.30 King Credo, Who's To Say.

12.50 (2km Helle): 1, RUSSIAM RASCAL, R Gerriny (6-4 km); 2, Endré Beaté (20-1): 3, Riche Beaté (20-1): 3, Riche Beaté (20-1): 3, Riche Beaté (12-1): 11 ran. 3, 9, (T Eastorby) Total: 52.50; 11.20; 54.40; E3.40; D. Hall F: 52.64.0; Trio: TS7.30; CSF: E30.17. 1.20; (2km Shide): 1, TIP IT IM, N Horrocks (5-1); 2, Realizas (11-4); 3, Sacidees Spin (7-1), 9-4 fav Superiop, 11 ran. X, 1, (A Smith) Total: F7.60; CS5.0; E1.90; E3.50; Duay F: E1.200 Trio: E39.60; CSF: E19.94; Tricast 532.77.

SS. 08. Tricast: \$103.75. NR: Master Salesman.
2.20 (2m: Helin): 1, FLYAWAY situres, P. Niver (3-1 fav): 2, Chammeny's Saga (10-1): 3, LRSe Reducing (12-1): 4, Aide Missand (20-1): 22 rin. Ns. 7. (Mrs M Reveley) Total: 64.20; \$2.00, \$2.00, \$2.00. \$2.00. Dual F: 137.50. Tric: \$11.80. CSF: £36.31. Tricast: £27.10. NR: Paint Your Wagon.
2.50 (2m: 11 10 yells Chip 1, KENNBORS-SPEED, R Guest (8-1 fav): 2, Cashe Aheaed (8-1): 3, Off The Benr (8-1): 10 ran. 2, 11. (Mrs. S. Smith) Toter \$2.10. \$140. \$1.70. \$3.00. Dual F: £13.00. Tric: £4.20. CSF. £13.58. Tricast: £78.33. NR: Istand Chief.
3.20 (2m. 37 Helie): 1, LAGEN BERDGE, D. J Moffalt (25-1): 2, B The One (7-4 Fav): 3, Pailsfalt Hamel (8-4): 12 ran. 1, 24. (D Moffalt (25-1): 2, B The One (7-3 Fav): 3, Pailsfalt Hamel (8-4): 2, Tris. 2.0. CSF. £73.42. QUADPOTE \$17.60. PLACEPOTE \$264.30. JACKSPOT: Not won, £16.678.16 carried forward to Leleester Today.

FONTWELL

12.40 (2m 2f 110yds Hdle): 1, SER-ENUS, JR Kavenagh (3-1): 2, Academy House (4-5 tay): 3, Sen Bowdon (6-1), 11 ran. 14, 7, (4 Henderson) Tate: (2.50; (1.40, £1.10, £1.40, Dual F: £2.40, Tric: £2.50, CSF: (5-45,

5:45.

1.10 (2an 21 110yds Hdbs): 1, 2ESTI, N Mann (5-1); 2, Laneara Breeze (33-1); 3, Watter Hazard (7-1), 5-2 (2r Memory's Male: 1) tron 8, 05 (17 Clement) Ton. 64 50; 51:40, 512:40, 5220. Dual F: 170:20. Tho: 203:80, CSF: 5114. 15. NR: Fruit Town. 14-00 (2an 25 Ch); 1, United OF APPROLON, P Hdb (5-2 lay); 2, Willie Bishket (5-1); 3, Jacksone Bay (12-1). 10 ran 16, 2, U Gillord) Ton: 22.60; 51:10, 52:40, 52:70, Dual F: 27:10, True: 28.80, CSF: 514.35. Tricast: 5112.88.
2.10 (2an 21 110yds Hds): 1, SUPPRIME LADY, J Octome (8-4 lay); 2, Irea N Gold (7-2); 3, Sesseggian's Point (10-1), 8 ran 11.

1. (Miss H Knight) T: E2.90; E1.70. E1.10. 22.80. DF; C4.40 CSF; C5.89. Tricast: 958.00. 22.40 C2m 6f 110 yds Cfb); 1, WERADOR, 0 Walsh (13-6 lav); 2, Daring Klag (10-1); 3, Pervious (10-1); 8 m. 3, 36. (R Curls) Tote: C1.90; E1.10, E2.30, E2.50. Dost F: E18.30. CSF; E17.02. Tricast: C16.23. 3.10 (Sam 2f 110 yds Helbo); 1, FLAKED OATS, A PMCCoy (11-8 lav); 2, Perahamody (13-2); 3, Grey Gorden (5-1), 8 ran. 4, 14. (P Nichola); 10 tet. E1.90; E1.40, E1.20, E1.70. Dust F: E7.80. CSF; E3.70. 3.40 (2m 2f 110 yds); 1, JELALL, D Gallagher (11-4); 2, E80erlen Heary (9-1); 3, Province (5-4 lav), 10 ran. 4, 35. (D Marrey Smith) Tots: C3.30; E0.20, C1.90. C1.40. Dust F: C14.90, Tric: C10.00. CSF; C26.61. QUADPOT; C11.70. PLACEPOT; E12.30. SOUTHWELL

SOUTHWELL

1.00 (2m 4f 110yds Helle): 1, LANCE
ARBISTRONG, A Maguire (4-6 tay); 2, bry
HE Lad (12-1); 3, Red Tel (4-1); 9 ran. 5, 1,
(3 McCourt) Tote: (1.50; 61.10, E2.80, 61.10,
Duel F: ES. 60. Tric: (18-10, CSF, 210.49,
1.30 (2m 6th); 1, SUBLIME FELLOW, M A
Ritgerald (9-4 [re-14y); 2, Formal Invitation (8-4 [rid-14y); 2, Formal Invita15.80, 61.00, 63.10, Dual F: ES.50, Tric:
618.00, CSF, 22.7.
2.00 (2m Melle); 1, STAY WITH ME, Mr R
Thornton (6-2); 2, Shirtley Bloom (14-1); 3,
Peter Mecansay (7-2); 2-1 fav Mig Attelstan. 6 ran. 10. 4. (C Egerton) Tote: 62.20;
61.00, Ed.60, Dual F: 614.00, CSF, 827.86,
2.30 (2m 110yds Cft); 1, OCHAM
LEADER, A Maguire (7-4 fay); 2, Becomb
LOWER (16-1); 3, Lawky Dollar (3-1), 8 ran.
5, Mirs D Heline) Tote: 62.00; 62.20, C.50,
61.00, Dual F: C14.00, Tric: 76.30, CSF,
627.13, Tricest: 677.82, NF: Sweet Buck,
3.00 (2m 4f Cft); 1, NETMERRY SAED, A
S Smith (7-2); 2, Copper Cable (25-1); 3,
Heaughton (12-1); Evens tay Zambod
Spirit, 5 ran. Diet. 38, (Miss M Milligan) T:
65-40; 62-40, 65-80, DF: 220,70, CSF; 624.00,
3.30 (2m 4f 110yds Helle); 7, FAWLEY
FLYEE, J Power (7-2); 2, Decent Force
(7-4 tay); 3, Warre is The Moore (35-1). 13-07, EA-01, ELBO, DF: 220, 70, CSF: CM-08, 3.30 (2m 44 110 yells) Holley 1, FAWILEY FLYER, J Power (7-2); 2, Decent Force (7-4 tsy); 3, Water is The Money (33-1), 9 ran. 1, dist. (W Turner) Tote: EAB, C1:40, C1



15 6-5 NOT TO PARKE (\$1) K some of the F TOP PORM TIPE Described B, Salley 1, Bacomi Step 6 Setting 11-4 Ng/d City 4-1 Norsen, 5-1 Saley, Hozard 7-1 Described, 10-1 Fairy Knight, 14-1 Second 15 remove 1.00 paley street marks only handicap hurdle $\pm a$ CL747 Business 1-3 Flore 3-1 Haptigad July 4-1 General Sanda 6-1 Outes Mandow, 8-1 Genedation, 19-1

resident and the second second

12.30 SPITAL HOVICE HURBLE (DIY () EM CE,075

2.30 SPITAL MOVICE MIRRLE (DV I) EM CARTS

(XS.-11) SARLED (18) N Nodges 4-11-5

5-1 CRISSTYCHIN (1865) O THOSE 9-10-12

5-2 CRISSTYCHIN (1865) O THOSE 9-10-12

9 FARTY ORIGINT (6) R HERITON 4-10-12

3 RELAAF (19) A SINGE 1-3-12

GOVER RISHE N NA-ALIMA 4-10-12

10 RM HERITO (18) A FORDE 4-10-12

10 RM HERITO (18) A FORDE 4-10-12

10 THOSE PLANE R BURNO 4-10-12

PRINCE CRIY L MY PROVING 4-10-12

10 SECOND SINGE (17) SECOND 4-10-12

4-13-45 SECOND SINGE (17) SECOND 5-10-12

6-5 NOT TO PARKE (37) K SHABERS 4-10-1

6-5 NOT TO PARKE (37) K SHABERS 6-10-7

PORM TOPEL DEROGES S, Sales T, BOOGHS 5-0

2.00 SPITAL MOVICE HURDLE (DW Z) 2m C2,051 PU SPITAL MOVICE HUNDLE (DN 2) 2m C2,058
#491-4 FR A DREAMEN (1853) (D) Miss M Rowled S-1
25-2 BATTLESHEP BEBUCE (19) (3F) T Cassy 4-10-1
EP BRAYDON POREST (19) C Dream 4-10-12
DESERT ORISIN R HERRON 7-10-12
DESERT ORISIN R HERRON 7-10-12
UP LEFT STAR (250) R Strong B-10-12
PF.-PF MASTER GOODERMOUGH (6) A Postor 5-10-12
40 OTTANED PARSHESSE (19) A High 4-10-12
PROTTON R ANDREAS (19) A High 4-10-12
DISCRESSE TIRESTEE (250) P Hedow 5-10-12 ERSAI THREATT (220) P Hedger 5-10-12 DROLL WIND (13) C Barrell 5-10-12 OK (44) J Filebolloma 4-10 TSP2: Sattheold: Bruce S, Fm A Drawner 7, Ottovic Pacucce S TOP FOR Bernings 5-2 Descri Green, 7-2 Stateship Bruce, 5-1 Fm A Descrier, 7-1 Proton, 8-1 Zapte, 10-1 Ottom 14 commer F4035- KING CRESO (28) (D) E Woodran 11-12-0 5-3435 WHO'S TO SAY (13) (D) May V William 15-11-10 40-117 ZEREDAR (E) (The sc) (CD) H Saday 15-11-2 24115-7 DEAR BO (18) (CD) H Hadderson 5-10-13 Nething: Evens Zaredar, 5-? Dear Do. 4-1 King Credo, 7-1 Who's To Say. 3.00 DORNEY AMATEUR RIDERS' HUNDICAP CHASE 2m SF 03,069 Bettings 5-2 Cookrot, 3-1 Act Of Parliament, 7-2 Marry Pants, 5-1 Rex To The Rescue, Wittins, 16-1 Call Me Early, 33-1 Witippers Delight. 3.30 PANOBOLENE HANDICAP HURDLE 2nd 4f C2,101 3.30 PAMOROUGHE HAMDICAP MUSDLE 2n 4f C3,101

1 SID0-81 DAMELAYS BEST C311 Mass IX FOURISHED-11-10 ...

2 670-15 CAMBO (1480) (C91) M Baris 10-11-10 ...

3 500-27-5 SINTER RETURNACY (17) B Pating 0-11-5 ...

4 000-27 LETTS BE FERME (18) N CHARDS 5-11-5 ...

5 005-7 ADDIEST TWEELFIN (0) (D) D O'BROS 8-11-2 ...

6 105-7 ADDIEST TWEELFIN (0) (D) D O'BROS 8-11-2 ...

7 100-21 DONTONESS-RODGHERE (31) C Wesdon 5-10-1 ...

9 2070-5 PERLY MATCH (62) J 10-7-30-9 ...

10 2001-2 RELATIVE CHARDE (2020) M Nayons 6-20-6 ...

11 210-5 DURBHAME (49) (D) J Jankis 7-30-6 ...

12 2074-5 POLICERIANS PRESE (30) M Nagons 6-30-6 ...

13 F-700-0 WILL AMEES (19) (C) C Drew 8-30-0 ...

14 P-700-0 WILL AMEES (19) (C) C Drew 10-10-0

TOP PORM TIPE Dentstreet

Champions Cup final round, Group A

Rangers end

on a flat note

Auxerre 2, Rangers 1

Patrick Glenn in Auxerre

UXERRE secured the

result they needed to take them to the last

eight of the Champi-

ons Cup against a makeshift Rangers team who had, pre-

dictably, more fight than fi-nesse. If the margin of victory seems a little skinny, it may be ascribed to collective de-

termination by the Scots and

individual defiance by their goalkeeper Goram.
Auxerre's first-half goals

been magnifique but, consid-

Boro fine Emerson £100,000

Michael Walker

MERSON, Middlesbrough's missing Brazilian, yesterday earned a new place in soccer's hall of infamy when it was revealed that he has been fined a total of £100,000 by the club. It is the most on a player in Britain.

Middlesbrough's chairman
Steve Gibson confirmed that

Emerson, who is believed to earn £16,000 a week, has so far been docked six weeks' wages. Gibson said that the fines will continue if the player, who has gone absent without leave three times and is currently in Brazil, does

"Emerson has been severely disciplined and, unless his conduct improves, further action will follow," he said. "We will continue to fine him to the maximum amount until he conforms."

Gibson made his remarks in the course of a wide-rang-ing attack on the player, his agent and Barcelona, the club allegedly waiting to sign him. Gibson warned the player returns in time to face Leeds that all thoughts of a move should be shelved "He is staying here," he said. "If he doesn't comply he will lose everything and it will cost continue that the Brazilian

29 years of age.
"We want him to spend the best years of his career with us and win caps for Brazil We haven't brought him here with a view to allowing him to leave immediately."
Gibson then questioned
Barcelona's behaviour behind

the scenes. "Barcelona's con-duct in this affair requires investigation. There has been a disgraceful manipulation of the player so that somebody can profit from the sale of Emerson to Barcelona. We are disappointed by the play-er's conduct but he has been badly advised. The events been carefully orchestrated, possibly with the permission of Barcelona."

Bryan Robson, meanwhile, awaits Emerson's return from his latest trip to Brazil, al-though the Middlesbrough manager is not sure when that will be. "We expect him back in a day or two," he said. "but I don't know when for

homesick wife and missed Tuesday night's discouraging defeat by Leicester. Even if he on Saturday, the Spanish league's month for incoming transfers begins on December 15 and speculation is sure to him his career. He is con-tracted to us until June 2000, by Barcelona last week.

Case pays for Brighton chaos

Chariton rejects chance

BRIGHTON yesterday sacked their manager sider coming to Brighton and I shall be meeting some of them. nine of 59 matches since he replaced Liam Brady just over a year ago. Case has seen his side win only three Third Division matches this season and last week they were knocked out of the FA Cup by Sudbury.

George Petchey has been appointed caretaker man-ager and among those being entioned as a possible permanent replacement are Gary Stevens and Steve Foster, both Brighton-based. Mark Lawrenson, Newcasteam captain Mark Morris. It might, however, be con sidered a job that nobody wants, as Case claimed last week. But the chief executive David Bellotti told Radio 5 Live last night: "In the last few hours a number of managers who are

return to the English game as director of football at

Grimsby, struggling in the

First Division.
The club's chairman Bill

Carr revealed yesterday that the 61-year-old Charlion was

first approached a fortnight

ago but after much thought he had opted to stay out of the

game, having resigned as the Republic of Ireland's manager

last vear after almost a de

cade in charge.

Grimsby dismissed their

previous manager Brian Laws more than a month ago and have Kenny Swain in

temporary charge, but the chairman admits they de-

layed a permanent appoint-

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"The chairman [Bili Archer] and I will be taking a decision as quickly as we can. We have 24 league games left and we have to get off that bottom place." Case was not helped by turmoil off the field. Brighton supporters protested again during Tuesday night's 3-2 home defeat by Darlington. In the latest demonstration against the grandstand of the Goldstone Ground were broken the stadium and the plans to ground-share with Gillingham next season.

Case, who had just under a year of his contract to run, sald yesterday: "After the Darlington game people were saying that was my lot, but the club has been out of work have spoken to going downhill for ages."



Wright in his stride \dots the Arsenal striker missed this chance, but scored later from the penalty spot

Premiership: Arsenal 3, Southampton 1

Merson subdues Saints

Paul Weaver

moved three points clear at the top of the Premiership with this ultimately emphatic victory over a dogged but rarely inspired Southampton side. who have now lost four league matches in a row. Graeme Souness's team

came to Highbury with only two points from their travels, the worst away record in the Premiership. Being without board, windows in the Le Tissier, Woods and Nielsen, they might have been considered something of a Ostenstad only occasionally supported by Berkovic up front, they succeeded in frustrating Arsenal for most of the first half.
The Gunners were them-

field influence of Vieira. The Frenchman was booked for a 34th-minute challenge on Berkovic and faces a two-match

His yellow card symbolised Arsenal's anxiety but they looked incisive enough early on, Hartson heading wide from Merson's cross in the sixth minute. Dixon might also have made more of a 15th-minute offensive, but misjudged his pass to Platt and the midfielder had to step backwards before scooping the ball over the bar.

In the 22nd minute Winter burn's corner was headed leaders and top scorers. But near post, but Linighan with a six-man midfield and headed wide. Southampton gathered con-

fidence from Arsenal's waste-fulness in front of goal. Magilton headed wide from Berkovic's free-kick, Magilton shot just over, and in the selves without Seaman, Berg-kamp and Keown, and will clear off the line from the im-

break by Berkovic. Arsenal steadied and finally took the lead in the

44th minute. Platt touched Vieira's free-kick on to Merson, who drilled a right-foot shot just inside the right post. Merson's goal, his seventh if the season, lifted his side for the second half and Southampton struggled to come to terms with the fresh tempo. In the 55th minute Hartson created a good chance for himself with a neat turn but sliced his shot wide. A minute later Merson, with Wright

and Hartson waiting at the far post, seemed unable to cross or to shoot and ulti-mately did neither. The target men frowned, but all was forgiven a minute later when Arsenal scored again. Lundekvan was penal-

ised for his challenge on Merson and Wright stepped up to score from the penalty spot, his 20th goal of the season.

cided that Ostenstad needed some support up front and brought on Watson for Oakley, but Arsenal then almost increased their lead. Merson declined a shooting opportu-nity and passed to Wright, who stepped over the ball to leave Hartson clear, but all the unselfishness came to naught when Hartson shot wildly over the bar.

Southampton finally scored in the 81st minute when Ostenstad beat Adams and found Berkovic, who shot home from close range, but the 89th minute when Shaw scored his first goal for the club.

West Ham United 0, Aston Villa 2

Villa deliver double Hammers blow

Mark Redding

ing to work hard to prevent their championship challenge subsiding. Last night's hard-earned victory against West Ham lifted them to fifth ahead of Manchester United, who visit Upton Park on Sunday. Knocked out of the Uefa Cup and relieved of their hold on the Coca-Cola Cup, the onus was on Villa to take the game to the home side if they

not giving up and is still look-

manently. "We won't be let-ting the managerial situation provement grant application.

goals from set pieces. Ehiogu putting them in front with a header from a corner, Yorke making the game safe in the 74th minute by repeating the ITH just over a third of the season gone, Aston Villa are hav-

trick. West Ham posted a warning in the 13th minute when they should have scored, but the indifferent marksmanship that had seen them manage just 13 goals in the league this season let them down again. Raducioiu, partnering Dowie in the absence of the injured Portirio, played in a sweet ball from the left that put the were to rescue something ball from the left that put the from this campaign. After a Northern Ireland striker

Oakes's legs. Seven minutes later it was Raduciolu who spurned an opportunity to open his

league account with the Ham-mers. Oakes did well to keep out a flerce drive from Breacker. The ball dropped Breacker. The can dropped straight to the Romanian World Cup forward lurking on the edge of the area, but Raducioiu shinned it disappointingly over the bar. Slowly Villa were begin-ning to stir. Milosevic had al-ready tested Miklosko with a dipping half-volley when against all expectations the visitors took the lead. Draper

diffident start the visitors | clear on goal, but he shot at | dropped in a corner from the eventually prevailed with two | Oakes's legs. crowd to head firmly into the As the restless crowd began

to vent their anger, West Ham slipped back into their shell. Now it was the visitors chance to spurn opportuni-ties. Nelson's one-two with Milosevic carved open the West Ham defence in the 50th minute but the right-back lost his nerve and shot wide.

Wast Ham United Midosko: Breacker (Bowen, Sknin), Rieper, Bilic, Dicks, Hughes, Bishop, Moncur, Rowisnd (Lazaridis, b-Q. Dowie, Radurolu, Anton Willen Caleer, Scimeca, Nakson, Eliogu, Statinton, Wright, Draper, Taylor, Townsend, Yorks, Milosavk. Besternes M Rilay (Leeds).

BAHINDRA INTERNATIONAL (Bombay): Second reuned: 8 Parton (English Awalin (Egypt) 15-6, 15-6, 10-13, 9-16, 15-9; Zudawir Janham (Pak) bt Zanth Jahann (Pak) the Larth Jahann (Egypt) bt M Chaloner (English A. 7-18, 8-15, 15-11, 15-42; Parton (Sout) bt S Meads (English 15-6, 15-6, 15-6, 15-8

Squash

Fixtures Soccer

PA VASE: Second round: Tow Law To value of the Muston. Replays Louth Lite v Thackley. DR MARTERS CUP: First round. second lag: Billion To v Reddich Lite. ice Hockey SUPPRILEAGUE

Countation's programme to help sponsor sierted young athletes, especially those with medal chances at the Sydney Summer Games and the Paratympics in

Graham Robertson remains on course for a third Scottish Indoor Masters bowls title after defeating England's Andy Thomson by two sets to one at Coethridge yesterday. The final toxight will be an all-Scottish after as Robertson, champion in 1822 and the following year, meets the winner of the second semi-linal between the world chempion David Grounty and the Scottish champion David Pescock.

The East Lothian player needed only four ends to take the opening set 7–1 but Thomson, least year's beaten finallist, reversed that scoreline in the second and than moved 2–0 sheed in the decider. Robertson Int back to level at 3–3 and

three years, flighted a free-kick from the left and Gough stole in behind Rabarivony to head past Cool from eight

were scored almost in spite of their conservatism. The realisation that a draw would be sufficient to qualify them for the quarter-finals was always going to have a cooling effect on their approach to the game. on their approach to the game.
And, given Rangers' relative indifference to the result, lengthy periods of harmless sparring in midfield were entirely predictable. For the French, a manic charge at the visiting defence might have been magnifique but, consid-

ering the risk, it would cer-tainly not have been la So, when Laslandes and Mariet scored one each and Gough replied for the Scots before the interval, there was widespread surprise. That first strike came at the end of 20 totally uneventful minutes,

if you do not count the booking of Ferguson for a foolish tackle on Rabarivony near the half-way line.
It was Rabarivony's cross from the left which started the process, Marlet meeting it eight yards from goal and keeper made a fine save but was unfortunate to see the ball rebound straight to Las-

landes, who volleyed it home from close range. The second goal, in the 31st

the Auxerre striker ran on to a pass from his own defence and simply motored past four Rangers players on his way into the area before stabbing the ball past the helpless

Rangers' counter only four minutes later was a welcome reminder to Auxerre that there was still work to be done. Steven, playing in Europe for the first slowed. Europe for the first time in yards.

But the problems that Rangers carried into the match — half the regular team missing because of injury and suspension — began to have a debilitating effect in the second half, when Auxerre spent much of the time swarming all over them.

Saib came close to scoring when he rushed to meet Violeau's precise, low centre from the right, but his side-footed shot slid inches wide of the goal Lepaul was then released on the left and chose the shot rather than the cut-back.

Powerfully struck, the ball would have hit the target but for Goram's stretch to tip it over the bar. Rangers had to make changes again, Van Vossen having gone off in-jured at the interval, with Wilson taking his place, and, a little later, McCoist replacing Petric.

The playing surface having been made treacherous by torrential rain for most of the day, it was, all round, a trying heading powerfully to the night for the Scottish right of Goram. The goal-champions.

tle's next two games at

least. One way or the other,

he experienced the full

gamut of emotions in the

Asprilla rarely talks about his performances, es-pecially since his inter-

preter went off to college in

London, and his post-match comment — "I was just so happy at helping Newcastle get through" — hardly con-stituted a soul-baring

exercise.
It was left to David Ginola, the only happy French-man in the North-east on Tuesday night, to speak up

for Asprilla. Ginola's de

fence of his team-mate was forthright. "I like Tino, as a

guy and as a footballer. He's the sort who just

wants to go out and enjoy

his football and I admire

"I think it is a bad situa-

Section 19 19 19

Keep your shirt on, Ginola tells fussy referees

Michael Walker sees no harm in

| Asprilla's 'excessive goal celebration

T COULD be said that the

flamboyant Faustino Asprilla was hoist by his own petard on Tuesday night. Newcastle United's opening goal against Metz was a long time coming, and after scoring it the Colombian entertainer in-dulged in a spot of flag-waving with his shirt in a dark corner of St James' Park. The gifted striker, who is cheered by the Toon Army even when he falls over, was promptly booked by the Swiss referee Serge Muhmanthaler for his shirtless antics and will miss the first-leg match against whomever Newcas-tie face in the Uefa Cup quarter-finals next March. A minute after collecting this booking Asprilla score

again — an even better solo goal — and soon afterwards he was carried off with a hamstring injury which will rule him out of Newcas-

tion and, when a player is booked for enjoying himself, a bad decision. People should remember that football is a show and a spec-tacle. It's put on for the benefit of the public, and bringing a bit of fun into the celebrations is good for the fans. "Ravanelli pulls his shirt over his head and it's a

that in him.

all the time. All right, Tino invented a new celebration but we should be able to live with that. I'm not sure he realised that by celebrat-ing his goal as he did he would get himself booked." One consolation for Asprilla is that his hamstring injury may not be as bad as first feared and he could be back to face Liverpool two days before Christmas against, in the 4–3 defeat at Antield in April, and Kevin

Liverpool were the last Keegan clearly still recalls that memorable night.

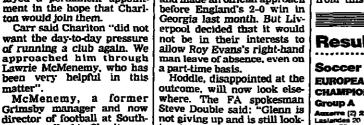
"We're going through a spell where we're just not playing well at home," said the manager. "And against Metz for long periods we were about as bad as we can be. The main thing is that

we got through. When you think back to last season and those super displays at when we got nothing, I don't care when Lady Luck smiles on us."

Award ices Dundee's cake

THE Karlsruhe striker Hässler to the accolade. "It is Sean Dundee, a 23-year-old South African, has been award like this," said the voted Germany's Player of the Year by his fellow professionals. Dundee, who hopes to become a German citizen, beat the VfB Stuttgart striker Giovane Elber and his Karls-

award like this," said the Bundesliga's leading scorer. Dundee began last season as an amateur with Karisruhe but forced his way into the first team and scored 16 league goals. He has scored 12



ampton, talked to Chariton on behalf of the Blundell Park ing to get another coach for his team." club but was unable to persuade him out of retirement. Carr hinted that Swain would now be appointed per-manently. "We won't be let-

ACK CHARLTON has drag, but these things take rejected the opportunity to return to the English game as | "We are quite happy with how things are going on the field. We think Kenny is

doing a great job." Charlton, a 1966 World Cup winner with England while a Leeds player, managed Mid-dlesbrough, Newcastle and Sheffield Wednesday before being appointed by the Football Association of Ireland in

before England's 2-0 win in Georgia last month. But Liv-

to revive Grimsby fortunes

Liverpool have rejected Glenn Hoddle's attempt to appoint the Anfield assistant manager Doug Livermore to England's coaching staff. Hoddle wanted Livermore to join his back-room team in the build-up to internationals, and made an official approach

outcome, will now look elsewhere. The FA spokesman Steve Double said: "Glenn is

Hednesford, of the GM Vauxhall Conference, have been charged with miscon-duct by the FA over alleged

Results **EURÓPEAN CLIF** CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE

GC Zurich 0. Alex 1. Group B Group C

ca Web foot;

Group D AC Milan 1, Roses burg 0, FC Porto 2 FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

SCOTTISH LEAGUE Second Division

Sherry 65, 77
POSTTIES LEAGUE: Premier Divisions
Sheff Wed 2, Transcer 0, Postponed: Liverpool v Derby, First Sheff Ued 1, Hostersfield 4, Seconds Cartifale 1, Shrewsbury 2, Stockport 1, Man C 3; Barnsley 1, Bradford C 3, Tatris Postponed: Wigan v Darlington. League Capt Group Two
Postponed: Scarborough v York.

gerdina 52; Leicoster/Northampson 20, Western Samon 33; Pontypridd 19, Cueensland 28. REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Ebbw Vale 59, Weish in: XV 53. CLUBBS: Bedford 60, RAF 10; Plymouth 38, Bridgewater 0; Bale 38, Loughtorough Stats 5; Löndon Irish 0, Brunel University 38; Nuneston 16, Bucht 39 38: Nunesion 16, Rugby 32.
HART GILMORE FOUR COUNTIES

AMERICAN EXPRESS QUALIFYING SCHOOL (Ls Mangs, Sp) Second-reamd landers (GB/tre unless stated): 138 M-J Poulosu (Can) 58, 70, 140 T Eakin 77, 74, 742 M-T Pistote (Fr) 69, 75; M Hodbler (Swe) 72, 74, V Stampud (Nor) 71, 71, 143

75. 72: I Naconi (B) 72. 75: C Orth (Ser) 73. 75: M Wright 75. 72: J Head 74, 73: M Brin (Swe) 76. 71: J Oliver 74, 72: K Andersec (Swe) 71. 75: M Series Research 19. 75: M S Marbella. Sp): Final secret (best bin count): 414 Section (C Ronald 88, J Chil Isa 76). 421 Spein. 431 England (G Fure 68, C Smellie 73). 436 Ireland (D McGran

Tennis Basketbali

Milita Affanta 105, Boston 95; Cleveland 83, Toronto 74; Minmescha 89, Secramenso 95; New York 75, Mismil 95; Militaculsee 104, Chicago 107; Portland 93, Indiana 95; (ot); Golden State 114, Denver 95; LA Clippers 85, Charlotte 98; LA Lakers 110, Seattle 108. EN'S EUROLEACUTE Grown & CSKA SCOTTISM DEDOOR MASTERS (Cost-bridge): Semi-Smalin & Robertson (Scot) bt A Thomson (Eng) 7-1, 1-7, 7-8; 19 Chem-ley (Scot) bt D Pescock (Scot) 7-8, 7-8.

ice Hockey WBLs Detroit 2, Vancouver 2 (ot): New Jer-sey 2, Floride 0; NY Intenders 3, Celgary 1; Pitisburgh 4, Hartford 4 (ot): Teronto 2, St Louis 0; Phoenix 1, Los Angeles 4. Cricket



Houghton heaps on the agony back from

David Hopps in Harare

OW that Graham Gooch no longer runs up fire-escapes in the name of English cricket, David Houghton has inherited the dubious accolade of the oldest Test batsman in the world. It is advisable to remind him of that on good days, and yesterday was one. How much psychological damage England have suf-fered in their sluggish start to

this tour remains debatable, but Houghton's century undoubtedly heaped a further burden on a tour party keenly aware of a record of only two series victories overseas (i) the past decade.
His innings may yet con-

tribute to another England defeat. Mashonaland, 279 for

Scoreboard

nine at the close of the second day, lead by 82 on a pitch that has begun to turn so appreciably that the last six wickets fell to Robert Croft and Phil Tufnell within nine overs. Houghton, as Zimbabwe'

coach, has assembled a file on every England bowler, advocating how they can best be played. It would be a touch naive to suggest that yesterday he put those theories into prac-tice, for he recognises that his own style is highly individual. "I don't look orthodox and I don't look pretty," he said. "I

off stump through the leg side, then so be it." Houghton's coaching manual, nevertheless, should not be short of positive vibes after his 110, made in less than three hours from 141 balls. He could heartily recommend combating Turnell's left-arm spin with the lofted sweep shot which brought him both

on the rugby outfield he was congratulated, incongruously, by a lone spectator try to hit the gaps and if that | Houghton's batting, though, means hitting a ball outside has always had a touch of Braveheart about it. At 258 for three, with

Houghton dominant, Mashor aland had visions of establishing an impregnable position. Instead their former captain, reaching forward to Tufnell was undone by turn and bounce and returned a catch. That began a transformation from which England centrating hard.

his sixes, including the one | might yet pilfer an unlikely victory, with Croft embarking upon a spell of four wickets for five runs in six overs.

Tole as England chaplain was unofficially suspended 18 months ago when Raymond II-As the ball rolled to a halt upon a spell of four wickets on the rugby outfield he was for five runs in six overs. for five runs in six overs.

Wishart and Paul Strang fell at short leg, Duncan Campbell edged to first slip and bell edged to first slip and cap. Wingers-Diggers is offer-Glenn Hoddle, as a born-

again Christian, has been at pains to point out that he has more important things to pray for than England victories, but one could not help noticing that the tourists have called up a familiar ally in Andrew Wingfield-Digby, who was sitting by Castle Corner and seemed to be con-

ing spiritual comfort again and, for those players more obsessed with man-made communications Zimbabwe is just about to launch a cellular network. Judging by the rest of their communications in-

Painful experience . . . Darren Gough shows his despair as Craig Wishart canters another run against England yesterday

be faulted as they scraped a further 22, Mashonaland's attack set to work the move-ment often available in the first hour had diminished.

By the time England's pace Gough bowled quite sharply at times, in between regular re-dressing of blisters caused dustry, it is to be hoped that lines to God prove rather more reliable.

England resumed at 175 for nine and, although the pluck more reliable their appealing. To get to component of England's this mess they must synnine and, although the pluck attack, bowled too short. Cad-

Wingfield-Digby's unofficial | of Croft and Tufnell could not | dick has done nothing yet to be deemed worthy of auto-matic selection for the first

Tufnell's two top-order wickets were both contenwhen he was leg-before. sweeping, and Alistair Camp-bell's sprightly half-century ended with a bemused shrug to the umpire after he was adjudged to have edged to first slip, the ball having deflected off Stewart's gloves. England had at least synchronised their appealing. To get out of this mess they must synchro-

the first match of the current series in Brisbane

In Sydney he was 78 not way to his maiden Test century when the collision won by 124 runs and lead

Rugby Union

Underwood Lomu limbo

Robert Armstrong

IONY UNDERWOOD and Victor Ubogu have been added to the England squad of 21 for the international against Argentina at Twickenham on Saturday week.
Underwood, who last played
for his country in the World
Cup defeat by New Zealand 18months ago, has impressed
England's coach Jack Rowell
with his recent Newcastle
form after missing most of form after missing most of last season with a knee ligament injury. Ubogu, the 32-year-old Bath

Hardwick who made his England debut as a substitute against Italy, will act as cover for the first-choice props Jason Leonard and Graham Rowntree. Ubogn, last capped in the defeat by South Africa a year ago, has regained the match-hardness and scrummaging form that the England coaching staff deem necessary for Test rugby. The recall of the 27-year-old

Underwood, who has scored 10 tries in 20 internationals, should keep Jon Sleightholme and Adedayo Adebayo look ing over their shoulders, though both can be confident after two solid games this

other cap he will continue to be best known as the England wing steamrollered by the All Black Jonah Lomu during last year's World Cup semifinal at Newlands. That faintly comical image was underlined by Underwood TV pizza adverts with Lomn. "I think that I deserve to be there but I don't want to be remembered for my last Eng-land performance," he said.

file matches. Still, I am not the man in possession and I obviously suffer from that if the top two are playing well, as they are."

Rowell will probably an-nounce his match line-up on Monday, having kept his fingers crossed that no one gets injured in the weekend programme of Courage league matches. Sleightholme has been left out by Bath for their crucial home same against Harlequins but the England captain Phil de Glanville will lead Bath even though he has not fully recovered from the dead leg and head wound he suffered during last Saturday's defeat by the New Zealand Barbarians.

campaign. Until Underwood wins an-"Playing League Two rugby does not affect my skill but it

does give me fewer high-pro- Underwood . . . pizza action

Clubs' peace deal with the RFU may leave Sir John in the cold

tious: Grant Flower was a vocates of club power in the strongest advocate of that long way down the pitch game's new professional go-it-alone position. He era, could find himself isolated this week as the leading clubs make peace with the Rugby Football Union.
The lengthy and often acrimonious conflict between the top 24 clubs and the RFU, which at times threatened to tear the game's once cosy world apart as the two groups fought for control of the purse-strings, will end when the clubs accept the

RFU's terms and its position as governing body. The indi-cations are that all the clubs, with the possible ex-ception of Sir John's Newastle Gosforth, will sign of millionaire owners, had

bankrolled by a new breed wanted to run the profes-sional game themselves, giving them control of its finances and fixtures through their own organi-sation, English Profes donal Rugby Union Clubs The RFU would have been left to run the non-profes donal side of the game.

Sir John, whose big-name signings at Newcastle Gosforth did much to kick-start OIR JOHN HALL, one of the most aggressive adpay ethos, was possibly the

> swallow his pride. Sir John has called the RFU deal a "con trick". If ment, while the other clubs attempt to change the RFU rather than ditch it — a sort of rolling maul rather than kicking for touch — the am-bitious and vociferous cide to puli out of rugby union altogether and concentrate on the soccer, ice hockey and basketball clubs he controls.
>
> Olivier Merle is back in a

revamped team for the second Test against South Africa at Parc des Princes on Saturday. The lock, fit again after a rib injury, is one of six players brought in: Laurent Leflamand, who will earn his first cap, David Venditti, Christophe Lamaison, Guy Accoce-berry and Marc Dal Maso.

FRANCE: J-L Sadourny; L Leffa: Dourthe, S Glas, D Vonditi; naison, G Accommy; A Sec Cestel, P Benetton, F Pelora, C P Tournsky, E Dai Maso, C Cal

Saglain's spell overturns New Zealand

UDGING by the way Paki-stan's Saqlain Mushtaq polished off New Zealand in steady progress in pursuit of the first one-day interna-tional in Gujranwala, England's spinners can anticipate some rich pickings against the Kiwis on the second leg of

the winter tour. 41 his best in limited-overs games, as New Zealand were bowled out for 217 to give Pakistan an 11-run win and a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. Saqlain turned the Saqlain's effort was not

the hosts' 228 for eight.

A 78-run second-wicket partnership between Bryan Young who hit 58, and Adam Parore laid the foundations on which Stephen Fleming and Chris Cairns built a stand that held out the promise of a New Zealand victory. But once it was broken, after 60 had been added in 9.4 overs, their hopes were dashed.

the Match award, which went to Salim Malik for his unbeaten 73. Wasim Akram hit 52 to pass 2,000 runs in one-

day internationals.
In Nagpur, Vinod Kambli scored 98 off 101 balls on the runs behind.

second day of the Indian A Africans. He hit seven sixes four off successive balls and 11 fours, but despite his effort his side were all out for 340 and finished the day 77

Elliott to miss third Test because of knee injury

ready before the fourth Test in Adelaide on January 25.

HE right knee injury the third Test which starts in Melbourne on Boxing Day hander Matthew Elliott suffered during the second Test against West Indies in Sydney on Monday is more serious than at first thought and he will be out for more than a month.

He required an operation on Tuesday to repair carti-lage damage sustained in a collision with Mark Waugh while they were batting together. He had hoped to be fit for

"Matthew will be on crutches for four weeks and hopes to return and prove his fitness in time to be available for selection for the Adelaide Test," said his manager Rob Alvatogiou, who added that the surgeon, David Young, expected the player to make a full recovery.

lian averages last season and made his Test debut in as a replacement for the dropped opener Michael

out and seemingly on the with Waugh forced him to retire hurt. But Australia the series 2-0.

Motor Racing

Mansell to test Jordan Parke finds inner strength

Alan Henry

IGEL MANSELL must have liked what he saw on his "fact-finding" visit to the Jordan-Peugeot team's headquarters at Silver-stone yesterday. Speculation that the 43-year-old will be tempted back into Formula One grew yesterday when Eddie Jordan announced that Mansell will test one of the Peugeot-engined F1 cars at Barcelona's Circuit de Catalunya next week.

Mansell will have mixed feelings about this venue, for It was at Barcelona 18 months ago that his second comeback ended. He left McLaren-Mercedes after only two races, but not before McLaren had been forced to invest £500,000 in building a car with a cockpit specially enlarged to accommodate him

Both he and Jordan are playing down speculation that the two-day test on Wednesday and Thursday will lead to a firm contract for the Englishman, world champion in 1992, to partner the 21-year-old Ralf Schumacher in next year's world champion

"It is 20 years since Eddie and I raced against each other in Formula Ford," said Man-sell. "We are old friends, and portunity to reacquaint my-self with a Formula One car."

Jordan said: "I have asked Nigel several times over the years to drive one of my cars but the timing wasn't right. Now it is. "There is no commitment

from either party beyond this test. Nigel is Britain's most successful driver of all time and it is an honour for everyone at Jordan Grand Prix Racing to give him this test." However, Mansell's outing



Mansell ... back to Barcelona

career began 16 years ago at the wheel of a third Lotus car

in the Austrian GP. He scored the first of his 31 grand prix victories at Brands Hatch in the 1985 Grand Prix of Europe at the wheel of a Williams-Honda, and went on to win the world championship seven years later in a Renault-powered

He left F1 at the end of 1992 for IndyCar racing in the United States, then returned to guest for Williams after Ayrton Senna's fatal accident in the 1994 San Marino GP. Passed over by Williams for a regular drive in 1995, he then entered into the short-lived partnership with McLaren Mercedes.

After such a bruising experience it is questionable whether he will be prepared to put his reputation on the line if he is not convinced that the Jordan-Peugeot car is

a worthwhile proposition. Yet with Damon Hill rele-gated to the fledgling Arrows-Yamaha squad after turning down Jordan's £4 million offer, it may just be that Mansell could envisage a come-back in 1997 as a feasible way to revive flickering memories of his glory days as Britain's leading grand prix contender.

Squash

of qualification for the | walked out on his opening

Richard Jago in Bombay

CIMON PARKE's trau Smatic year, which began with testicular cancer and continued with a five-month rehabilitation after chemotherapy, may finish in inspirational

The former England No. 1's 15-6, 15-6, 10-15, 9-15, 15-9 win over Amir Wagih took him into the quarter-finals of the Ma-

fired after going two games and 7-4 up against the Egyptian. "But somehow I found the mental strength to push on," said the His opportunity to reach the eighth and last qualify-

ing place in the Super

Super Series final at the end of the year. match in a fit of temper. Parke's hopes of reaching the semi-finals look reason-Parke, still weak from the stomach trouble he suf-fered during last month's World Open in Karachi, able, for his next opponent is the world No. 16, Zubair Jahan from Pakistan. A five-game defeat for England's Mark Chaloner

by Egypt's Ahmed Barada means that only two seeds have survived: Rodney Eyles, the favourite from Australia, and Peter Nicol, the title-holder from Scotland, who beat England's hindra International here Series has come because Stephen Meads 15-5, 15-9, yesterday and within sight Australia's Anthony Hill 15-8.

ice Hockey

Panthers celebrate backing for new arena

Vic Batchelder

ESPITE the Nottingham Panthers' 4-1 defeat at Sheffield on Tuesday — a result which sent the Steelers to the top of the Superleague the club's owner Charles Walker was happy yesterday.
The main reason was the news that the Sports Council had in principle approved funding support for a 230 million and the state of the llon scheme by Nottingham nounced yesterday that they City Council to construct two have signed the Canadian for-

ice rinks on a site adjacent to the present 3,000-capacity, 50-year-old Nottingham Ice Stadium. One of the new rinks will be an 8.000-seat home for the Panthers. Work is expected against Ayr at Sheffield to begin in the middle of next year and the arena should be ready for the 1999-2000 season.

John Lord, the Superleague chief executive, confirmed "It is great news for the city, for Nottingham Panthers and for British ice hockey generally," said Walker. The Panthers also an-

merly with Milton Keynes, from the German side Straubing Tigers and hope he will make his debut in Saturday's Benson and Hedges Cup final

dian defenceman Ryan the final. He was suspended for six games for fighting with a Manchester player in the sin-bin last week.

Sport in brief

Sports Politics Bidders for Britain's

emy of Sport and its £100 mil-lion of National Lottery money unweiled their plans yesterday. "We can pledge more medals at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney," said Sir Nigel Rudd, leader of Notting-ham Council's consortium, which includes Loughbor-ough and Nottingham univer-stries, Queen's Medical Cen-tre and Lilleshall.

Sites near Watford and Hatfield are proposed by the Ath-letes' Bid, led by Sir Eddle Kulukundis and backed among others by the tennis layer/entrepreneur David Lloyd and hockey gold medal-list Sean Kerly. A shortlist of the 25 contenders is due before the end of the year, and a decision by the end of

Hockey

A new administration for men's and women's hockey in England next June came closer yesterday when the men's ruling body, the Hockey Association, voted 53-10 in favour at a special general meeting, writes Pat Rowley. The women's association, the AEWHA, is holding a postal vote to be declared on Saturday, it needs 90 per cent m favour.

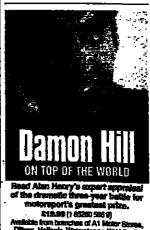
Rugby League

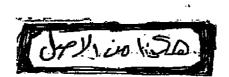
Clubs can now sign six over-seas players instead of five, scramble for Australian tal-

ent. writes Paul Fitzpatrick Super League clubs down under must now nominate first-grade squads of up to 23 players on top salaries, which leaves about 40 players, in-cluding the Brisbane Broncos wingers Michael Hancock and Willie Carne, rated among the world's best, looking for contracts elsewhere

Soccer

The Dutch First Division will play a Dutch Imports XI at PSV Eindhoven's Philips Stadium in Rotterdam next Tuesday in an match designed to test new electronic monitor-ing alds for referees. With close range microphones and cameras, difficult situations will be replayed on a bank of dium. Uefa and Fifa are keeping a watching brief.





Listless Agassi slides out, page 13 Massive fine for Emerson, page 14 England struggle in the field, page 15 Underwood recalled from limbo, page 15

SportsGuardian



European Champions League final round, Group C: Rapid Vienna 0, Manchester United 2

United waltz it in Vienna

Giggs and Cantona steer path to the quarter-finals

David Lacey in Vienna

thereabouts Ferguson's team came in from the cold of a hitter Viennese evening in the Ernst feats by Fenerbahce and Ju-Happel Stadium here last night to celebrate a longawaited appearance in the quarter-finals of the European Cup, the first by an the decision of Marcello English club in the competition for 11 years. Rapid Vienna, coupled with Deschamps, who was injured, Keane, whose strength domi-

THE NORWEGIANS of Rosenborg last night sprang one of the biggest

surprises in European Cup history when they over-

came Milan, five times win-

ners, 2-1 in the San Siro to

remove the Italians from

the competition.

in the Stadio delle Alpi. means that they will play Porto in March for a place in the last four, with the opening leg at Old Trafford.
For the moment United will

be grateful simply to be alive at this level after home deventus had threatened them with a third failure in the tournament in four seasons. They were also thankful that Lippi, the Juventus coach, to start the Fenerbahce match match remained open-ended. United's 2-0 victory over without Ferrara, Jugovic.

lar margin against Juventus twist to a night which saw United starting to look like a power in Europe again. Even now it would be foolish to read too much into last night's victory over a Rapid side who, like Juventus — already Group C winners -

a little pride and the extension of a 15-match unbeaten home run in Europe. With Rapid going for victory just for the hang of it and United always likely to exploit shaky Viennese defending, the United owed much to Roy

Unfancied Norwegians knock out Milan Rosenborg now entertain restoring their lead after Juventus in the first leg of Dugarry scored for Milan the quarter-finals on just before half-time. Bratt-

March 5, shattering expec-tations of an all-Italian conbakk hit Rosenborg's first in the 29th minute. In the other quarter-finfrontation in the last eight. als. Ajax meet Atletico Ma-The Norwegians triumphed after Heggem drid and Borussia Dort-struck in the 69th minute. mund play Auxerre.

looks likely to keep him out Fenerbahce's defeat by a simi- | and Boksic did not add a cruel | by Ryan Giggs, who should | briefly appeared to be in con-

have had more, and Eric Cantona who, after a quiet start became a growing influence on the game - much as he had done in the 2-0 win against Fenerbahce in Istan-bul, where he also completed United's victory. Yet again, however, inspi-

rational goalkeeping by Peter Schmeichel underwrote a United success. Had he not scooped away a goal-bound beader from Rene Wagner in the 16th minute the night might have gone horribly wrong for Ferguson and his players.

So United have succeeded in the revamped European Cup where Arsenal, Leeds and Blackburn, apart from themselves, have failed in the Nineties. Porto will be a difficult hurdle; so far their form in Europe has put them in the Juventus class. But United

have three months to get their act together. They knew that whatever they achieved here last night would be fruitless unless it was complemented by a have given United an un-

being able to recapture the setting up the simplest of op-shape, rhythm and spirit of Is-tanbul, where they had but placed his shot wide. trol of their own destiny. And this is largely what happened. Rapid's defence soon betrayed signs of the disorganisation reminiscent of their 2-0 defeat at Old Trafford.
Giggs wafted an easy chance
over the bar and Gary Neville's 25-yard drive was tipped
over the top by Konsel over the top by Konsel.

When Rapid responded and in a moment that recalled Banks's save from Pele in the 1970 World Cup — Schmei-chel kept out Wagner's closerange downward header with one hand, Ratajczyk having turned the defence on the left

before crossing. Solskjær then missed from point-blank range, but no matter. Cantona was now in the game and midway through the first half he gathered a ball from Giggs, turned a defender and threaded a return pass through a square defence to leave the Welshman with a chance that this time he did not miss, driving a low shot past Konsel

Giggs could and should

nated the midfield until he was forced off after a tackle other side of the Alps in with Kühbauer 15 minutes from the end. His injury — a shin slashed to the bone which required 30 stitches — A lot depended on United left position before carefully leave to the sing able to recently the setting on the match breakable grip on the match less than a minute after half-time. Solskjaer bobbed and weaved his way through the governed by distant echoes.

A lot depended on United left position before carefully setting on the string on the match less than a minute after half-time. Solskjaer bobbed and weaved his way through the left position before carefully left position before carefu

After Konsel had made a brave double save from Butt, Cantona's firm header hit the outside of the near post. Then in the 71st minute Rapid were completely exposed as Beckham's low centre from the right found Cantona sliding in at the far post to score the simplest of goals. The loss of Keane and Butt, injured by Zingler's challenge, slightly dampened the celebrations, but at the end spring and Porto wine were beckoning Manchester United through

winter's chill. mohester Uniteds Schmeichel; G ville (Casper, 90), May, Pallister, Irwin, ckham, Butt (Poborsky, 82), Keane Clielr, 77), Giggs, Cantons, Soisidaer.

Sub plot that injects a sting in the tail



and dynastic coincidence at Cardiff Arms Park last Sunday, a romantic sub plot.

It is fully a quarter of a cen-tury since big, bold, blond Derek Quinnell (already a star Lion, but still uncapped by Wales) resolutely barged through a touchline wall of police stewards and spread gled a posse of gawping ambulancemen in his desperation to take the field as replace-France. He was on for 65

seconds before the final whistle blew. He never remotely touched the ball. But as he trooped off, his beam (and his team) memorably acclaimed the joy of his first cap—doubly so when the touchline coppers said they wouldn't, in

Same place, different touch line (the old Cardiff changing and there on Sunday was Quinnell's son Craig strain-ing just like his dad had to be summoned on for his first bigtime Wales cap. He made it, although the prime touchline desperation these days seems more one of getting their great bulbous Mr Michelin tracksuits off than the actual fact of

getting on. Mind you, in 1968 Wales's first-ever replacement (never, in rugger, "sub", ol' boy) saw Phil Bennett gain his first cap when he likewise was called on also against France, with excitement at getting the call when Gerald Davies was injured, Bennett was all fingers and thumbs, too-cold hands and too-hot heart, and he couldn't undo the two long zips up the legs of his tracksuit bottoms. he wrestled with the locked zip, his tizz getting more frantic. One minute ticked away; only two left when his Scarlet *confrère* on the bench, the mighty hooker Norman Gale, bent down and, from the bottoms up, tore to shreds the trousers with his bare hands. Bennett was on. Similarly, who can forget the England true great,

Gloucester's Mike Teague,

against France, for his first cap in 1985 when John Hall

receiving the desperate sum-

went down — and, with the help of the rest of the bench, taking an age intricately to tie his boot-laces. Teaguey, why hadn't they been done up al-ready, I asked afterwards. "My bad blood circulation," he said. "It's hereditary, and the reason all Teagues roll their socks down.

The first-ever replacement in an international was Mike Gibson, of the Lions, in the Pretoria Test the summer of 1968. But perhaps the most cel-ebrated British "super sub" who deserves to be enshrined in the all-time legend is another Welshman, Ray "Chico" Hopkins, of Maesteg and, still, caps, both as sub for Gareth Edwards, once for Wales at Twickenham in 1970 and once for the Lions at Dunedin in 1971. Both matches won, both times Chico man of the match. In soccer the first English

sub to score was the canny Wolf Jimmy Mullen in 1950, but after the allowing of replacements in rugby in 1968 a sideline doctor always had to examine the player going off and then, the law said, "pronounce him to the referee as sufficiently burt".

Only this season has the law changed to allow tactical sub-stitutions, like soccer worldfact yet sunk into the noddles of the European coaches? At Cardiff on Sunday Wales were being totally outplayed at everything, particularly the line-out, but the first two of their three substitutions were palpably for injuries and only the last, in the hopeless dying minutes, was tactical when the rampant young Quinnell went on for the woefully ineffective ambling alp of the line

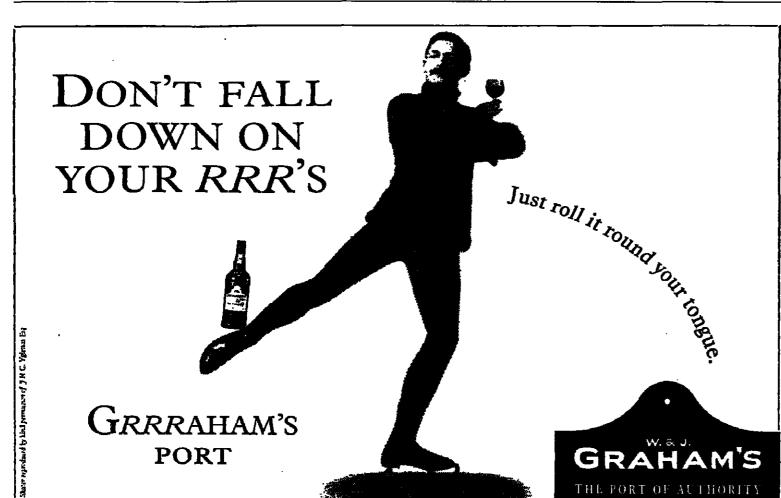
VEN more glaringly dim was the England subs plot the previous day at Twickenham. England compete doughtily some look spent; even-steven at 19-19. New Zealand bring on three fresh pairs of legs and, hell for leather, run out easy winners.

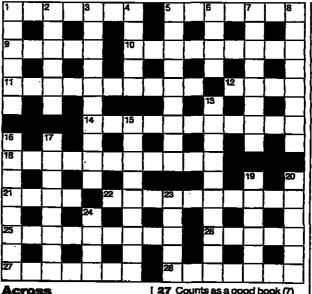
During which time the England management sit glum be-hind their bench sextet each young man invigorat-ingly and twitching to strut his stuff. Good heavens, it was only a friendly against the Baa-Baas; if England, during that last quarter, had sent on Clarke, Guscott, Bracken, and King or Greening to fill four gut-busted positions, they would not only have won and set up their season but underlined the crucial challenge for

Or hadn't the RFU had time to notify them (in triplicate) that the rules had changed?

Guardian Crossword No 20,828

Set by Mercury





Across

- 1,5 Top performer doubling
- as an usherette? (7,7) 9 Jog round front garden with no clothes on! (5)
- 10 Something shouldered by a naval officer? (9)
- 11 Cure com disorder before
- church event (10) 12 Clutches £1,000 rent (4)
- 14 A cargo I help to transport to
- the islands (11) 18 Was grateful for a 2p
- version I created (11) 21 Amonth off with male chief
- 22 Conquer walled city with a rifle (10)
- 26 Where to ring an amateur radio enthusiast back (5)
- 25 Channel Island gate I open leads to retreat (9)
- 27 Counts as a good book (7) 28 Melancholy now nurse is back on board (7)

- 1,16 A capital event people go a long way to take part in? (6,8)
- 2 Take off a black tube . . . (6) 3 ... that is caught in wave of vessei in frozen waters (10)
- 4 Birds standing around a diocese, for example (5)
- 5 Rebel chief is captured by a six-footer (9)
- 6 Incredible tin-opener has everything! (4) 7 Foreign divorcee learnt to
- dance (8) 8,20 Barker has to appear before the judges during these (8,6)
- 13 irritated about fabulous bird returning material (10)

- 15 Their job doesn't pay, it's claimed (9) 16 (see 1 down)
- 17 Inspect ruminants appearing in a range of colours (8)
- 19 Filers in set formation attack from above (6) 20 (see 8) 23 Game played by cold Nazi
- leader (5) 24 Watt and I read half of the telegram (4)

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